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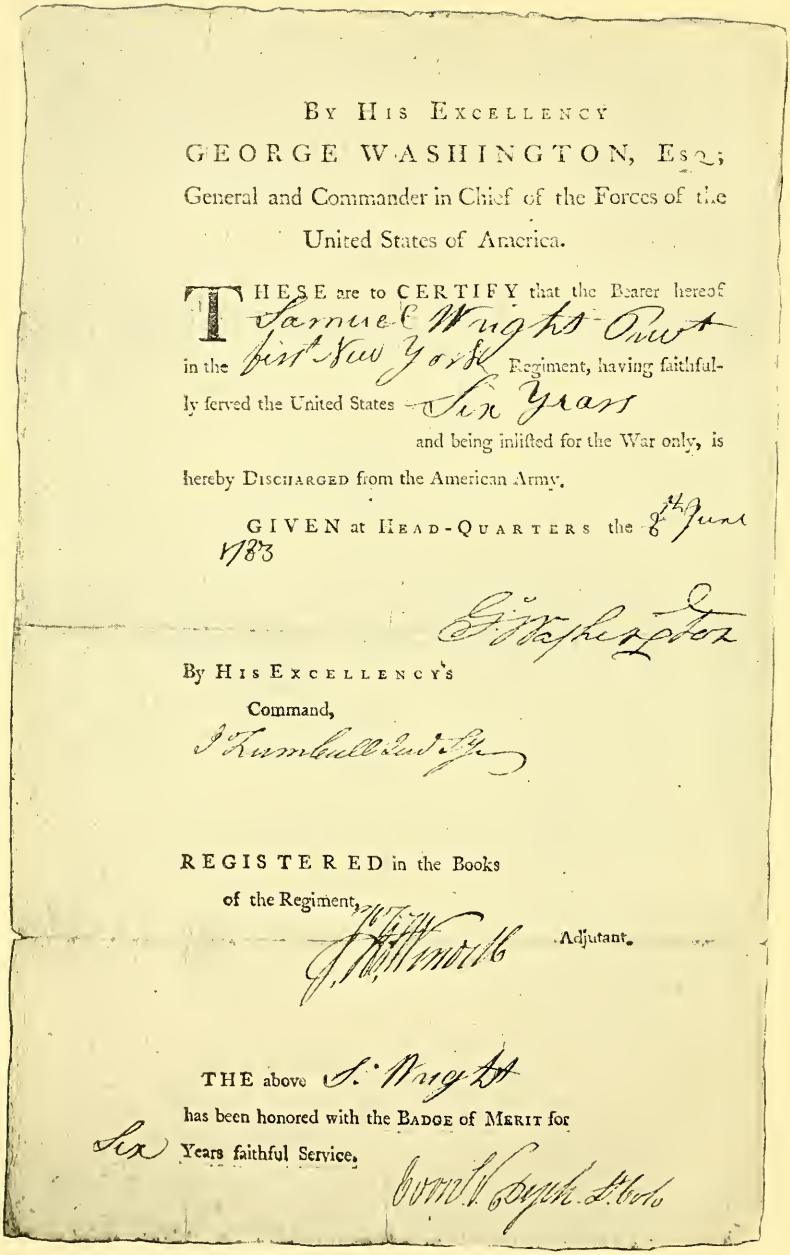
GEORGE WASHINGTON
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ;

General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

THESE are to CERTIFY that the Bearer hereof Samuel Wright Pvt in the first New York Regiment, having faithfully served the United States Six Years and being inlisted for the War only, is hereby DISCHARGED from the American Army.

GIVEN at HEAD-QUARTERS the 8th June 1783

G. Washington

By HIS EXCELLENCY'S Command,

I. Trumbull 2nd Sy

REGISTERED in the Books of the Regiment,

J. H. Winnell Adjutant.

THE above S. Wright has been honored with the BADGE of MERIT for Six Years faithful Service.

Cornl. V. Dyck Lt. Colo

CONTINENTAL ARMY DISCHARGE OF A PRIVATE SOLDIER, JUNE 8, 1783
(From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by G. Edward Elwell, jr., of Bloomsburg, Pa.) See p. 465

THE WRITINGS OF

George Washington

from the

Original Manuscript Sources

1745–1799

Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
and published by authority of CONGRESS

JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, *Editor*

Volume 26

January 1, 1783–June 10, 1783

United States
Government Printing Office
Washington

General
June 10, 1939

PRINTED
JULY, 1938

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THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

To COLONEL JOSEPH VOSE

Head Quarters, January 1, 1783.

Sir: I approve of your conduct respecting the Flag. Messrs Lewis and Nicholson[1] are to be permitted to proceed on their Journey, but Mr Kinloch will be under the necessity of return ing back as I have informed him. Mr. Mott, who was detained some day ago may also return.

In future Flags of truce from the Enemy properly authenticated and conducted are to be received at the New Bridge on the Croton until further directions. Other Instructions will be given in a few days on this subject to the Officer commanding on the Lines. I am &c.

P. S. You will please to send a safe guard back with Mr Kinloch if he chooses it.[2]

To SIR GUY CARLETON

Head Quarters, January 1, 1783.

Sir: As the passage of flags by water between the Posts of Kingsbridge and Dobbs Ferry will soon become very precarious if not totally impracticable on account of the ice; I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that whenever it is found

[1] John Nicholson was from Virginia.
[2] The draft, in the writing of David Humphreys, is inadvertently dated 1782.

more convenient for your flags to proceed by land, they will be received by the Officer Commanding at the New Bridge on the Croton; it will therefore be optional to send them to that place or Dobbs Ferry, during the winter. I have the honor etc.[3]

To CLELAND KINLOCH

Head Quarters, January 1, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the recet. of your Letter of the 29th Decr. and am extremely sorry that I cannot consistently comply with your request, Congress having by their Resolves of October last directed that "no Subjects of his Britannic Majesty coming directly or indirectly from any part of the British Dominions be admitted into any of the United States during the War."

The only mode therefore by which you may obtain the permission you desire is by an application to the Executive power of the State of which you mean to become a Citizen or to the Delegates of that State in Congress; their permission will be sufficient for me to admit you within our lines. I am etc.[4]

To JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH

Head Quarters, January 1, 1783.

Sir: In answer to your favor of the 22nd Ulto. I have to inform you, that the Resolutions of Congress respecting Persons coming from any parts of the British Dominions into any of the United States are so pointed, that I cannot think myself at liberty to comply with your request; your only mode of application must be to the Executive of the State of Maryland, or the

[3] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[4] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Delegates of that State in Congress, to whom any Letters you may think proper to write on the subject, will be forwarded from the Post of Dobbs Ferry. I am etc.[5]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, January 1, 1783.

Parole Guilford. Countersigns Hebron, Jerusalem.

For the day tomorrow Colonel Tupper, Lt. Colonel Cochran.

For duty tomorrow the 8th. Massachusetts regiment.

Discharges, and *Furloughs* for the persons recommended by the late Board of Inspection are lodged at the Orderly office; Commanding officers of the corps to which these men belong will make application for them that they may be registerd in the books of the regiment before they are delivered out; the dates, (blanks for which are left) are to be inserted in the discharges of those who are entitled to the Provision made by Congress, in their act of the 23d. of April 1782, at the time they are actually given. It is intended by adopting this mode, that those meritorious men who have been debilitated in service shall be borne on the rolls of their regiments and receive their Provisions and other allowances accordingly untill they have an oppertunity of returning to their own States; when ever this happens and the discharges become complete, report thereof is to be made to Head Quarters, that the dates may be registered there also.

Accurate Returns of the officers who remain in Service on the Arrangement of the Massachusetts and Connecticut Lines which is to take place this day are to be made to Head Qrs. by the Commanding officers of those lines, as soon as possible.

[5] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 2, 1783.

Dear Smith: Capt Merrit who is the bearer of this has permission from the Executive of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to go into New York for the purpose of delivering some Money to our Naval Prisoners. His Excellency desires you will facilitate the execution of this business, as much as lies in your power, by granting a flag for him to proceed by land or Water as may be most convenient, and that you will either write in his favor to the Commissy of Prisoners or forward any such Letters as may be thought necessary to procure admission for him into the Enemy's Lines. Should he receive a sum of Money in New York upon some orders he is possessed of he will be at liberty to bring it out without molestation.[6] I am etc.[7]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Thursday, January 2, 1783.

Parole Kensington. Countersigns Ludlen, Martlake.

For tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Barber, Major Fish.

For duty tomorrow the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

The honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolve:

In Congress, December 13, 1782.

Resolved that every officer whose duty requires his being on horseback, who shall have his horse killed or wounded and disabled by the

[6] On January 2 Humphreys wrote to General Knox, informing him of Captain [John?] Merritt's going in, and requesting a small escort for him "if it shall be thought . . . necessary." Humphrey's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[7] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

enemy, or whose horse shall fall into the enemy's hands without his own manifest fault or misconduct, shall be entitled to receive of the Quartermaster general or his deputy, the just value of such horse, to be appraised on oath, or on the honor of the appraisers, if commissioned officers, provided the same does not exceed one hundred and twenty dollars; provided also, that if the wounded or disabled horse be brought off, he shall be delivered to some officer in the quartermaster's department, whose certificate shall be necessary to entitle the owner to compensation; provided also, that before any compensation shall be made for horses lost in manner before-mentioned, the necessary fact shall be proved to the satisfaction of the quartermaster general or his deputy, to whom application shall be made relative to any such losses as have already happend, and in future, by the certificate upon honor of at least one commissioned officer, or the oath of a Non-commissioned officer, or soldier not interested therein, countersigned by the commanding officer of the army, brigade, corps or detachment, to which the claimant did at the time belong, unless he be the general commanding where the loss accrued, in which case his own certificate upon honor shall entitle him to compensation in manner aforesaid. This resolution to have retrospect to the first day of January 1779: this resolution not to extend to officers who have already received compensation for horses lost since that day.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, January 3, 1783.

Parole Notingham. Countersigns Ohio, Providence.

For the day tomorrow Major Oliver, Major Trescott.

For duty tomorrow, the Maryland Detachment.

The honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Ordinance:

An Ordinance for amending an Ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States of America

Whereas it hath been represented to Congress since passing the ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States of America, that sundry alterations therein, and additions thereto, are necessary: Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, and it is hereby

ordained by authority of the same, that the privilege of franking letters be, and the same is hereby, extended to the inspector general, the adjutant general, the director of the hospitals, the quartermaster general, the commissary of prisoners, and the paymaster general of the army of the United States; and that the same privilege be, and the same is hereby, extended to the officers at the heads of the like departments in any separate army; all letters to and from whom, on public business, shall pass free of postage; and in order to prevent the multiplicity of franks becoming too burthensome to the public, Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the allowance not exceeding twenty per cent. on what would be the postage of free letters, if they were charged, be discontinued, and that the public be charged with no farther commissions on free letters, though they contain enclosures, than the officers of the Post Office would be entitled to on the postage of the same number of single letters coming the same distance.

And be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the clause in the ordinance of the 18th of October last, which directs the Postmaster General and his deputies to furnish extraordinary expresses be, and the same is hereby repealed.

AFTER ORDERS

Notes are arrived for the Payment of the officers subsistence for the present Month. The regimental paymasters will present at the pay office duplicate accounts current, signed by the Commanding officers, wherein is to be charged the Subsistance of the regiment, agreably to the Establishment and the subsistance of the deficient officers and Prisoners to be Credited.

Duplicate accounts of the subsistance of Departments and General officers family, to be signed by the heads of the Departments and General officers.

Where a regimental officer belongs to a Staff Department, or in the family of a General officer, his name, rank and regiment to be specified.

Money is also arrived for payment of the ballance of subsistance of the officers, for April, May and June, 1782.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letters of the 18th and 25th Ulto. the former enclosing Captain Bannister's[8] application to you; the latter giving advice of the departure of the french Fleet.

I approve of your appointing Capt. Day[9] to succeed Captain Bannister in the duty of receiving, mustering and forwarding Recruits from Springfield; as you have been particularly acquainted with the mode of conducting this business, I have only to request, if you think any thing farther necessary in addition to the Orders already given, that you will take the trouble of communicating Instructions accordingly.

It gives me infinite pleasure to learn our Allies departed from the Continent under such favourable impressions. I doubt much whether there ever was an instance before, where the Troops of two Nations which had served together in the Field, have parted with such sentiments of sincere affection and mutual regret.

By the latest accounts from Europe, it appears a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Dutch and the United States was entirely agreed upon and settled, and that Copies were making out for signature. The Commissioners were still at Paris, and notwithstanding Mr Oswald has received a Commission investing him with ample Powers for Negociation with the United States, yet appearances were so equivocal that the best informed were much at a loss whether we must expect Peace or a War. With sentiments of esteem etc.[10] [MS.H.S.]

[8] Capt. Seth Banister, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.
[9] Capt. Luke Day, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.
[10] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR CHRISTIAN HOLMER[11]

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of ———[12] It was not expected by Congress in their Resolution of the 7th of Augst. last, nor is it possible from the circumstances, that I should take measures for compleating or even doing any thing in the arrangement of any of the Lines of the Army excepting those which are under my *immediate* command.[13] I have therefore transmitted a copy of your Letter to the Secry at War, in whose power I suppose it may be, to give you any information on the subject you may desire. I am, etc.[14]

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR[15]

Head Quarters, January 3, 1783.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 2d and 28th Ulto with their enclosures, and have caused the amendment of the Ordnance respecting the Post Office to be made public agreeably to your request.

By the last Post I have received Letters from Major Holmer, Capt Williams, and Capt Kirkwood respecting their derangement: Copies of which I enclose: and have informed those Gentlemen that it was not expected by Congress in their Resolution

[11] Of the First Continental Artillery.

Identically this same letter was sent to Capt. Lilburn Williams, of the Third Maryland Regiment, who had been wounded at Camden in May, 1781, and retired Jan. 1, 1783; and to Capt. Robert Kirkwood, of the Delaware regiment, who served to the close of the war, was captain of the Second United States Infantry in March, 1791, and killed by the Indians near Fort Recovery, Ohio, in November, 1791.

[12] The blank in the letter to Holmer was filled by "13th Decr."; in that to Williams by "19 Decr."; and in the one to Kirkwood by "18 Dcr." Williams's letter to Washington is in the *Washington Papers*.

[13] Major Holmer had been retired in January, 1781, and had written to Washington of his poverty in retirement and praying assistance. Holmer's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[14] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[15] Maj. William Jackson.

of the 7th of Augst last, nor was it possible from the circumstances, that I should take any measures for compleating, or even doing any thing respecting the new Arrangement of any of the Lines, excepting those which are under my immediate command. It is for this reason I have referred them for further information to the Secry at War. I am etc.[16]

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING ON THE CROTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 3, 1783.

Sir: As I have thought proper to direct that in future and until further Orders Flags of Truce properly authenticated and conducted agreeably to the Rules of War may be received at the New Bridge on the Croton: and that Flags may also be sent from thence unto the British Lines under certain limitations; you will be pleased to observe the following Regulations in conducting this business (viz)

All Flags from the Enemy are to be stopped at the Bridge, the Letters and Papers received, and the bearer or bearers discharged and sent back as soon as conveniently may be; while the person or persons who came with the Flag remain there, he or they are to be constantly in the charge of a Commissd or Non Commissioned Officer; and whenever it may be thought necessary a guard will also be ordered to prevent a removal from the quarters assigned, or any kind of improper or illicit intercourse with the Inhabitants of the Country.

It need not be suggested that all Persons coming under the sanction of a Flag and demeaning themselves properly, ought

[16] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On January 4 Benjamin Walker wrote to Maj. William Jackson that Captain Segond complains of being deranged and that Colonel Armand understood he had resigned. "The General wishes to be informed if this is true or if Capt. Segond did not go out on the resolve of December." Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

to be treated with civility; But no Military characters are on any pretext to be suffered to come any farther within our out Posts than is necessary for their accommodation; Nor are any Citizens or persons of any description whatsoever (except Prisoners of War exchanged or on parole) coming in this manner from the British Lines to be admitted into any of the United States, without the special Permission of Congress, or the Supreme Executive of the State into which they wish to go. All others are to be remanded to the Enemy's Lines.

Flags are to be granted by you only in consequence of Orders from Congress, the Secry at War, Executive of either of the States or myself. All Letters and Papers that are to be sent in by Flag, must be previously examined at Head Quarters, except such as may be forwarded by some of the authorities before mentioned, or written by persons who have Passports from them, on the business relative to which permission for Flags was granted to them. You will suffer no Article of goods or Merchandize, to come out by Flag; and all Letters Dispatches &c brought by such conveyance are to be forwarded to Head Quarters for inspection; except such as are addressed to Congress, the Secy at War, or Chief Magistrate of some of the United States.

P. S. This Order to be delivered over to the relieving Officer from time to time.[17]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM PATERSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 2nd respecting the distribution for the Recruits of the Masstts Line.

[17] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Some time ago the Secretary at War took measures to confine the Recruiting Service in Virginia [and Pensylvania] to the Infantry alone; and I am clearly of opinion for the reasons by which he was actuated as well as for some others, that under our present circumstances and prospects the augmentation of the Infantry in every State is at least as important as that of the Cavalry or Artillery can be, if not more so; you will therefore, continue to have a ninth part only of the Recruits of your State attached to the Masstts Regt. of Artillery until further Orders and will transmit a Copy of this Letter to Col Crane for his information. I am etc.[18]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, January 4, 1783.

Parole Quinsey. Countersigns Ridgefield, Sunbury.

For duty tomorrow the first Jersey regiment

For the day tomorrow Colo. H. Jackson and Colo. Tupper

A court of inquiry, consisting of Colonel Cortlandt, Majors Gibbs and Grahame to meet at Colonel Cortlands quarters at three o'clock this after noon, to enquire into a complaint exhibited by Catherine Leggett, against Lieutt. Ricker[19] of the first Jersey regiment, for seizing a Cow belonging to her husband under pretence of its being designed for the enemy and afterwards carrying the Cow below the Lines and selling of her there. The parties concerned will attend and the Court make report as soon as may be.

When ever the regimental Surgeons send any sick men to the General Hospital, they will report to the hospital Surgeon the names of the Companies to which such men belong.

[18] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[19] Lieut. Cornelius Ryker (Ricker) Sedam (Suydam). He served to April, 1783.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Sunday, January 5, 1783.

Parole Torrington. Countersigns Virginia, Weymouth.

For the day tomorrow Lieutt. Colonel Maxwell, Major Fish.

For duty tomorrow the first Newyork regiment.

The Quarter Master General requests that the officers who are entitled to keep horses will as soon as may be settle their forage accounts up to the 31st. ult. inclusive.

A Return shewing the number of women and children that would have drawn rations in the several corps under the late regulation, shewing at the same time the number of extra Rations daily drawn in the corps agreably to the present regulation to be given in at the Orderly office on tuesday next; the form will be given by the Adjutant General.

To THE AGENT OF MARINE

Head Quarters, January 6, 1783.

Sir: The Officer who is the bearer of this, has in charge a number of Marine Prisoners, who were lately captured by a party of Troops on the Sound. There is amongst them one Hoit who has a Commission in the Refugee Corps, but who by his conduct in several instances since he was taken, particularly in attempting to induce Soldiers to desert, does not appear to be worthy of a Parole. Not knowing what was best to be done with these characters I have sent them to your Orders.

On this occasion I cannot forbear to mention the difficulties and irregularities which must frequently arise for the want of a Commissy of Naval Prisoners, or some person to transact his business at the Post of Dobbs' Ferry; since that has been the only avenue of Communication by Flag, a number of Marine

Prisoners have been sent to it, by the Executives of the several States from almost all parts of the Continent, and others have been sent out by the Enemy to the same place, for whom there was no person authorized to give Rects. and transmit the accounts to the proper Department. I conceive it necessary also you should be informed, that there are several instances where either Individuals, or particular States or Districts have sent gratuities in Money to be distributed amongst a certain number of the Prisoners; which it is much to be feared has and will be dissipated or misapplied, unless there is some person whose Province it shall be to superintend this and all the other concerns of our Marine Prisoners. A Gentleman from Masstts. with about 300 Guineas in Cash for some of the Prisoners of that State, has just gone to Dobbs Ferry to seek admission to the Enemy's Lines. I have written to Mr Skinner in consequence of your request, to deliver all the Papers &c. respecting Marine Prisoners to Mr Turner. With great esteem

PS Your favor of the 19th Ulto inclosing the Contract[20] has been duly recd.[21]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, January 6, 1783.

Parole Xebeque. Countersigns Yarmouth, Zenith.

For the day tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Barber, Major Oliver.

For duty tomorrow the 2d. New York regiment.

A sub, serjeant, corporal and fifteen privates from the 4th. Massachusetts regiment to be in readiness to receive a number of naval prisoners of war to be sent from Westpoint, and conduct them to Philadelphia.

[20] The ration contract for the Army.

[21] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

January 6, 1783.

Sir: I inclose you a Letter I have received from Mr. Morris and must desire that you will comply with the Contents of it without delay by sending to Mr. Turner[22] every Official Paper respecting his department, either in your possession or that of your deputies, and at the same time you will give him every information in your power, of the State in which you left the Marine part of your Appointment.[23]

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, January 7, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Bolton, Calias.

For Duty tomorrow the first Hampshire regiment.

To the day tomorrow Lt. Colo. Mellon, Major Trescot.

To give sufficient time for the settlement of the forage accounts preseding the year 1783 and prevent disappointments, the Quarter Master General requests the officers to call daily by corps, begining on the right with the Maryland Detachment tomorrow and proceeding in succession to the left. The accounts for 1782 to be seperately stated.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter your Excellency did me the honor to write on the 25th Decem-

[22] Thomas Turner, intendant of naval prisoners.

[23] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

ber, and to assure you of the great satisfaction I experienced from the agreable communications you had the goodness to make.[24]

Enclosed your Excellency will find the original Certificate, which was given by Mr. Chittendon,[25] to the bearer of your Letter of the 11th Ulto.

Nothing very interesting has happened since my last; a Fleet sailed a few days after from New York for Europe, and I am informed the Enemy are under apprehensions lest the French Fleet, which sailed two days after, should have fallen in with it. I am extremely anxious to hear from Charlestown; and still more so to know the result of the Negociations on the other side the Atlantic, and shall therefore be much obliged by any information relative thereto. With the greatest respect etc.[26]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the rect of your Letter of the 6 of this Mo. The matter respecting the Servants of the Officers of Cavalry shall be represented to the Secretary at War and until his directions are taken the Pay Master shall be ordered to Pay Subsistence to the number of Servants allowed by the Orders of Jany last.

Lt Colonel Jameson has the leave you request. I am &c.[27]

[24] The President of Congress had written: "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate your Excellency and the Army, on the admission of our Independency and National Character by the Court of Great Britain, in the issuing a Commission under the Great Seal to Mr. Oswald, now at the Court of Versailles."

[25] Thomas Chittenden's receipt is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

[26] In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The draft, in the writing of David Humphreys, is dated Jan. 7, 1783.

[27] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE[28]

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: In the regulation for paying Subsistence to the Officers of the Army it was not considered that the Officers of Cavalry are allowed more servants without Arms than those of the Infantry.

Untill the Secy at War shall give further directions on this head you will please to pay to the Officers of Cavalry subsistence for the number of Servants without Arms allowed them by the regulation made by a Board of Genl. officers in Philada. last Winter and published in the Genl Orders of the 18th Jany last.[29]

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, January 8, 1783.

Sir: When the Board of General Officers in Jany last regulated the number of Servants to be allowed to Officers, a larger number were allowed to the Cavalry than to the Infantry; this was not considered in the establishing the regulation for the subsistence to be paid to the Officers and in consequence complaints have already been made to me that for this extra number of Servants without Arms they can neither draw provisions or Subsistence. As I suppose it is owing rather to omission than to any intention of lessening the number then allow'd I have given the Pay Master orders to pay the Officers of the Cavalry agreable to the regulation of Jany last, untill your further directions should be given to him. I have the honor etc.[30]

[28] Deputy Paymaster General.
[29] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[30] The draft, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, is inadvertently dated 1782.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

(Private)

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Inclosed your Excellency will receive Ninety five dollars in Bank Notes; which, if my Subscription towards the support of the Revd. Mr. Caldwells children was only Twenty Guineas, is about the Sum. As the Bank Notes, I presume, are considered (in Philadelphia at least) as ready money I have adopted this expedient as the easiest and safest mode of making you the remittance and have the honor etc.

*To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25th. of Decr. has been duly received, and I thank you for the information contained in it.

The Marquis in his Letters to me, is not very explicit in his sentiments respecting the Negotiations of Peace; but refers me to his Official letter to you for his thoughts at large. In general, he holds up an idea, which perfectly accords with my opinion, that nothing will be concluded till the meeting of the British Parliament; and, if matters are not brought to a favourable Issue in a Month afterwards, that the War will rage in all its Fury.

Ever since the Secession of Mr. Fox and others from the Administration, I have been decidedly of opinion that Peace would not take place before that epocha. That it would depend upon the strength of the contending Parties, and their influence on the Nation, whether it would then happen or not; and that the intermediate space would be employed in

Intriguing; In an investigation of powers, In hearing propositions, and in probing the intentions of one another to the bottom. These I suppose, would have been pretty well understood on all sides by the 26th of Novr. (as the Ground on which Lord Shelburne is placed, also would); it followed then, in my judgment, that the Ministry wd. communicate to and take the sense of Parliament on the terms upon which Peace could be obtained; and leave it with the nation to accept them, or furnish the means of prosecuting the War vigorously. The Power given to Mr. Oswald to treat with any Commission or Commissioners properly authorised from the United States of America, is more than I expected wd. have happened before the Meeting of Paliament; but as the Gentlemen on the part of America could not treat with Him unless such powers were given, it became an Act of necessity to cede them to effect their other purposes. Thus I account for the indirect acknowledgmt. of our Independence by the King; who I dare say, felt some severe pangs at the time he put his hand to the Letters Patent. it is not however less efficacious or pleasing on that acct., and breaking the Ice is a great point gained.

There can be very little doubt I believe of the conclusn. of the Commercial treaty with Holland but I have apprehensions that that Power will be the most difficult to satisfy at the general Treaty of Peace.

It is with great pain I hear of the repeal of the Impost Law in Virginia; what could induce it? what Office is Mr. Jefferson appointed to, that he has, you say, lately accepted? If it is that of Commissioner of Peace, I hope he will arrive too late to have any hand in it. My best respects to him when he arrives and compliments in which Mrs. Washington joins to Mrs. Livingston. I have the honor etc.

*To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 26th. Ulto., covering Doctr. Smith's Drafts of the 23d. for Fifty Guineas. I am obliged to you for paying the money, and charging it to the acct. mentioned; altho' I was provided for the demand, and should have paid the Bill at Sight.

I have lately purchased a piece of Land near Alexandria at the price of £2000 Virginia Curry. with a view to exchange it for a small Tract in the centre of the one on wch. my Seat is. A tract I have been twenty years endeavouring to obtain with little or no prospect of success before. To enable me to pay for it, I have borrowed the money in this State (of the Governor) and expected to have answered the Bills at this place till by yesterdays Post I was informed by my Agent, Mr. Lund Washington, that the money was to be paid in Philadelphia; and that Mr. Robert Adam &ca. of Alexandria (who have the Bills upon me) were to set out in a few days to receive the Money. Under these circumstances, permit me to ask, if you can make it convenient, in the course of business, to pay the Sum of Eighteen hundred and Eighty pounds Virga. Curry. in Specie dollars at Six Shillings, in Philadelphia and receive the like Sum in specie (which I have by me) here? If you can, the Inclosed Letter to Mr. Robt. Adam[31] may be delivered. If you cannot, be so good as to return or destroy it.

[31] "The Honble. Robt. Morris Esqr. will pay Mr. Lund Washington Bills upon me for £680 in your favor; £600 in favor of Mr. Peter Dow; and £600 in favor of Mr. Collin McIver."—*Washington to Robert Adam*, Jan. 8, 1783. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

I beg leave to suggest that the specie I have is unclipped, consequently if I could pay it here by weight I should be no looser; but, rather than disappoint those who expect to receive the money in Philadelphia I would pay it to your Order, if you answer the Bills upon me at that place, by tale and abide the loss.

The distresses to which I know you have been driven from the numerous calls upon you for money without adequate funds to answer them, have ever been a restraint upon my applications for the most necessary purposes; perhaps I may have carried it to a criminal length with respect to secret Services; because rather than add to your embarrassments by my demands, I have submitted to grope in the dark without those certain and precise informations which every Man at the head of an Army ought, and the public Interest requires he should have, and this maugre the aid of my private purse and other funds which were not applicable to this essentially necessary purpose. Having given you this information I shall only add that, if it is in your power to afford me assistance it will come very oppertunely. If it is not, I am where I am.

I shall be obliged to you, (the Secretary at War having passed this place before the plan which you and he had determined upon for the Issues for the present year arrived) to inform me why and upon what principle the regulation respecting the Sixteenth Ration for the Women of the Army was made?

I have no doubt of a perfect agreement between the Army and the present Contractors, nor of the advantages wch. will flow from the consequent harmony. Sure I am, the Army will ask no more of the Contractors than their indubitable rights, and I am perswaded there is too much liberality and good sense in the latter to descend to the *low dirty* tricks which were practiced in the time of Comfort Sands whose want of liberality, I will go further, and say lack of common honesty,

defeated his favourite scheme of making money which appears to be the only object he had in view.

It is unnecessary for me I hope to add, in answer to your favour of the 19th. Ulto. that every support in my power towards carrying your schemes of œconomy into effect, shall be rendered most chearfully, as will any assistance I can give towards promoting your plans of revenue Altho' I am sorry to observe there does not appear the best disposition in some States to second your views.

Mrs. Washington joins me in respectful and affecte. Compliments to Mrs. Morris and yourself, and best wishes for the return of many happy New Years. The advanced Season and prospect of bad weather induced her to take the most direct Road to this place; otherwise she would have had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Morris in Philadelphia.

With great truth and sincerity etc.

My Compts. to Mr. Govr. Morris.

*To MAJOR HODIJAH BAYLIES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 13th. of Decer. has been duly received.

You will recollect upon our first arrival in quarters, I proposed to the Gentlemen of my family to accommodate themselves by agreement as to the time of their absence, in the most convenient manner, leaving a sufficient number which I expected would be three at Head Qrs. to have the duties performed. I repeated the same to you the day before you left this.

Colonels Cobb, Trumbull, Tilghman, who could no longer wait your return and yourself are, in consequence, now absent; the three former I suppose for the greater part or whole of the Winter; the extention therefore of your absence agreeably to

your request, would continue to impose the business of and confinement to the Office very unequally upon the two remaining Gentlemen; besides confining me more than I wish or indeed ought to be within doors; however if it is a matter of agreement with them I shall not object to it merely on acct. of the inconvenience it is to me: otherwise you must be sensible I cannot consent to the indulgence, without deviating from the equitable plan I at first proposed.

I have only to remark farther, that notwithstanding some Officers of the Army have supposed, there was nothing, or at least very little to be done in Winter Quarters, yet for my own part, I must confess I have never found it so, but on the contrary have frequently had as much business to be done by myself and Aids in that Season as in any part of the Campaign.

Under these considerations, whatever may be your determination, I shall still retain the same sentiments of esteem and regard with which etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, January 8, 1783.

Parole Devonshire. Countersigns Elizabeth, Frankfort.

For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs.

For duty tomorrow the 2d. Hampshire regiment.

By the United States in Congress assembled
December 31, 1782.

Resolved, That the resolutions of the 7th of August last, so far as relates to the lines of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, be suspended till the first day of March next; and also, as to the Pennsylvania line, so far as to retain in service only the officers necessary to the compleating of three regiments.

Resolved, That Brigadier General Hand be, and he is hereby continued in the Office of adjutant general.

The Quarter Master General having reported that the soldiers are daily cutting wood in the neighbourhood of Camp, transporting it to New Windsor on hand sleds and selling it to the Inhabitants, The Commander in chief strictly prohibits such practices in future.

The regimental paymasters will apply to the Assist. Clothier General at Newburgh for a proportion of the thread which has just arrived.

The Court martial whereof Colonel Greaton is president will assemble at his quarters tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

*To JOHN PIERCE

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Sir: I shall be obliged to you for a list of the several Sums which have been drawn from the Public for my use since the commencement of the War; mentioning to whom paid, and whether in Specie or Paper. I want to compare these with my own Warrant Book and the Expenditures to see how matters stand. I am etc. [H.S.P.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, January 9, 1783.

Parole Grantham. Countersigns Huntington, Iceland.

For the day tomorrow Colonel H. Jackson.

For duty tomorrow the first Massachusetts regiment. Captain Richard Cox[32] of the first Jersey regimt. is continued in the office of Major of Brigade to the Jersey brigade. Captain Benjamin Hicks[33] of the 1st. New-York regiment, to the New York

[32] Captain Cox had been promoted to major of the Second New Jersey Regiment on Jan. 6, 1783, and served to the close of the war.

[33] Captain Hicks served to June, 1783.

Brigade. Captain Nathaniel Cushing[34] of the 1st. Massachusetts regt. to the 1st. Massachusetts Brigade. Captain Abraham Williams[35] of the 2d. Massachusetts regiment, to the 2d. Massa. Brigade. Captain J. K. Smith[36] of the 6th. Massachusetts Regiment, to the 3d. Massachusetts Brigade. and Captain Jeremiah Fogg[37] of the 2d. Newhampshire regiment, to the Hampshire Brigade.

Accounts of Subsistence due to the Army for the Year 1782. are to be made out immediately, and lodged at the pay office.

Lieutenant William Morris[38] of the 2d. regimt. of Artillery is appointed Quarter Master to the same, vice Lieutenant Cunningham[39] resigned that office, this appointment to take place from the first instant January.

At a General courtmartial held at Philadelphia December the 26th. 1782, Lieutenant Colonel Weibert president, Lewis Mozais soldier in the Pennsylvania Line was tried for Desertion, convicted and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes, on his bare back.

The Commander in Chiefapproves the sentence of the Court.

*To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN ARMSTRONG[40]

Newburgh, January 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: By Major Armstrong[41] I had the honor to receive your favor of the 10th. of Octr., and in overlooking a bundle of

[34] Captain Cushing had ceased to be a brigade major in April, 1782. He served to the close of the war.

[35] Captain Williams served to November, 1783.

[36] Capt. John Kilby Smith. He was transferred to the Second Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[37] Captain Fogg is noted by Heitman as having been transferred to the First New Hampshire Regiment in March, 1782. He served to the close of the war.

[38] Lieut. William Walton Morris. He served to June, 1783.

[39] Lieut. Henry Cunningham. He was transferred to the Corps of Artillery in June, 1783, and served to June, 1784.

[40] Of the Pennsylvania Militia.

[41] Maj. John Armstrong (son of Major General Armstrong). He was aide to General Gates.

unanswered letters I discovered among them another from you of the 29th. of June which had got there by mistake, as it required an immediate reply. It is rather out of Season, to assign causes at this late hour for the continuance of the Pensylvania Recruits at Carlisle; but the truth of the matter is they were not, properly speaking, under my immediate orders; tho' in consequence of applications from the Officer Commanding I did give directions so far as respected their supplies, and the preparation of them for the Field. You know, that by a Resolve of Congress the Troops of Pensylvania are designated part of the Southern Army. The Officers Commanding which, and the States Interested in the event, were constantly urging the March of them to the place of their destination. On the other hand, the difficulty in fitting them for the length of that March, and the probability (in my judgment) of its being an unnecessary one, caus'd me to delay the final Orders for it; especially as I had reason, at *that* time, to expect something serious in this Quarter. Under these circumstances I could not, without the sanction of Congress (which I knew could not be obtained without long and warm debates, if at all) have ordered them upon the Frontiers of Pensylvania. These were the Reasons wch. operated in my mind to the prevention of yrs. and the wishes of the settlers named in your Letter of the 29th. of June, which, by mistake, has remained unacknowledged till this time.

We have been, and now are, in a disagreeable State of suspense respecting Peace or War. My opinion of the matter, ever since the death of the Marqs. of Rockingham and secession of Mr. Fox, Burke &ca. has been uniformly the same; and no late European accts. that I have met with, has given me cause to alter it. It is, that no Peace would take place before the meeting of the British Parliament; and that it would even *then* depend

upon the influence of the Crown and strength of the contending Parties. That previous to the Session, the British Negociators would be employed in Intriguing; In an investigation of Powers; hearing Propositions, and probing the Intentions of the Belligerent Powers to the Bottom, the latter being accomplished, the Minister (Lord Shelburne) if he found himself upon slippery ground, or that the voice of the People was loud for Peace, woud inform the Parliament, that after many Months spent in Negociation, such are the best Terms he can obtain. and, as they involve consequences of the greatest National concern, and have been the Subject of Seven years war and debate; it now rests with Parliament to accept them, or provide vigorously for the prosecution of the War; this would place the matter upon the broadest basis, remove responsibility from his door, and blunt the edge of opposition which, otherwise, I am perswaded will be very keen. The King, having by his Letters Patent, authorized Mr. Oswald to treat with any Comr. or Commissioners from the *United States* of America, is certainly a great point gained but it was unavoidable on the part of England, as our Commissioners would not enter upon business with Mr. Oswald without; and the Minister dared not to meet the Parliament without having attempted something under the Peace Bill, which passed the Session before. Upon the whole, I am of Opinion that the terms of Peace were agreed on before the Adjournment for the Christmas Hollidays, or that we shall have at *least* another Campaign; how well the States are provided for the continuance of the War, let their Acts, and their policy answer.

The Army, as usual, are without Pay; and a great part of the Soldiery without Shirts; and tho' the patience of them is equally thread bear, the States seem perfectly indifferent to their cries. In a word, if one was to hazard for them an opinion, upon this

subject, it would be, that the Army had contracted such a habit of encountering distress and difficulties, and of living without money, that it would be impolitic and injurious to introduce other customs in it! We have however, but this depended upon ourselves, built the most comfortable Barracks in the vicinity of this place that the Troops have ever yet been in.

I offer you the compliments of the Season and wish you may possess health and spirits to enjoy, after we shall have seated ourselves under our own Vines and Figtrees, if it is the gracious will of Providence to permit it, the return of many happy years. With great truth and sincerity, etc.

P S. Your Son was well a day or two ago, and is so now I believe.

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN

Newburgh, January 10, 1783.

My dear Sir: I have been favored with your letters of the 22d. and 24th. of last Month from Philadelphia, and thank you for the trouble you have had with my small Commissions. I have sent Mr. Rittenhouse[42] the Glass of such Spectacles as Suit my Eyes, that he may know how to grind his Christals.

Neither Du Portail nor Gouvion are arrived at this place. To the latter, I am refer'd by the Marqs. de la Fayette for some matters which he did not chuse to commit to writing.[43] the sentiments however which he has delivered (with respect to the negociations for Peace) accord precisely with the Ideas I have entertained of this business, ever since the Secession of Mr Fox; viz: that no Peace would be concluded before the meeting of the British Parliament, and that if it did not take place within

[42] David Rittenhouse.

[43] See Lafayette's letter to Robert R. Livingston, June 25, 1782, in Wharton's *Diplomatic Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 517, for the general tenor of these matters.

a Month afterwards, we might lay our Accts. for one more Campaign, at *least.*

The obstinacy of the King, and his unwillingness to acknowledge the Independency of this Country, I have ever looked upon as the greatest obstacles in the way of a Peace. Lord Shelburne, who is not only at the head of the Administration, but has been introducing others of similar sentiments to his own, has declared that nothing but *dire necessity* should ever force the measure. Of this necessity, Men will entertain different opinions. Mr Fox it seems thought the period had arrived some time ago; but Peace is not yet made nor will it, I conceive if the influence of the Crown can draw forth fresh Supplies from the Nation for the purpose of carrying on the War.

By the meeting of Parliament, Lord Shelburne wd have been able to ascertain two things; first, the best terms on which G. Britain cou'd obtain Peace from the Belligerent Powers. Secondly, the ground on which he himself stood. If he found it slippery, and that the voice of the People was for pacific measures, he wou'd then have informd the Parliamt. that after many Months spent in Negociations such were the best terms he cou'd obtain; and that the alternative of accepting them, or preparing vigorously for the prosecution of the War was submitted to their consideration being an extraordy case and decision; A little time therefore, if I have formed a just opinion of the matter, will disclose the result of it. consequently, we shall either soon have peace, or not the most agreeable prospect of War before us; as it appears evident to me that the States, *generally,* are sunk into the most profound lethargy, while *some of them* are running quite retrograde.

The King of G B by his Letters Patent (wch. I have seen) has Authorised Mr. Oswald to treat with any Comr. or Commissioners from the *United States* of America, who shall appear

with proper Powers; this certainly, is a capital point gained. It is at least breaking ground on *their* part; and I dare say proved a bitter work to Royalty; but, it was indispensably necessary to answer one of the points above mentioned, as the American Commissioners would enter on *no business* with Mr. Oswald till his powers were made to answer their purpose; upon the whole I am fixed in an opinion that Peace, or, a pretty long continuance of the War will have been determined on before the adjournment for the Hollidays, and as it will be the middle or last of Feby. before we shall know the result time will pass heavily on in this dreary mansion in which we are fast locked by frost and Snow.

Nothing new has happened in this quarter since you left it, except the abuse of me in a New York paper for having given *false information* to the Count de Vergennes, which says the writer was the occasion of the insinuatn. in *His Letter to me* of a want of B. Justice. I have not seen the Paper, but am told the author of the piece is *quite* in a passion at my want of ingenuity, and ascribes the release of Captn. Asgill to a *peremptory order* from the Ct. of France (in whose Service he places me) notwithstanding the soft and complaisant language of the French Minisr.

Mrs. Washington has received the Shoes you ordered for her and thanks you for your attention to her request. I receive with great sensibility and pleasure your assurances of affection and regard. It would be but a renewal of what I have often repeated to you, that there are few men in the world to whom I am more sincerely attached by inclination than I am to you. With the cause, I hope, most devoutly hope, there will soon be an end to my Military Services. When, as our places of residence will not be far apart, I shall never be more happy than when I see you at Mount Vernon. I shall always be glad to hear from, and keep up a corrispondence with you.

Mrs. Washington joins me in every wish that tends to your happiness. Humphrys and Walker who are the only Gentlemen of the family, with me at present, will speak for themselves. If this finds you at Baltimore I pray my respects to Mr. Caroll and Family. with the greatest esteem etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Friday, January 10, 1783.

Parole Kornebec. Countersigns Lunenburgh, Middleton.
For the day tomorrow Major Grahame.[44]

For duty tomorrow the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

A few Watch Coats are ready at the Cloathiers store, to be delivered to the troops of this Cantonment, immediate application is to be made for them.

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, January 11, 1783.

Sir: In the absence of Col Trumbull, I took the liberty of opening your Letter of the 9th and laying the subject of it before the Commander in Chief, in ansr to which His Excellency directs me to inform you, that upon proper Certificates and testimonies from Persons on the spot that the Provisions in questions were lost by inevitable accident and without any carelessness or fault of those concerned in the transportation, an order will be given for replacing it; at the same time the General requests to be informed of the reason or necessity for continuing any of your Corps at Fishkill, as it was his expectation and intention that the post there should be entirely broken up, and all Guards discontinued as soon as the stores were

[44] Maj. John Graham (Grahame).

removed; it was with this view, His Excellency adds that the Barracks on Constitution Island were designed for the accommodation of the Corps of Invalids. I am &c.[45]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, January 11, 1783.

Parole Norfolk. Countersigns Ordnance, Penobscot.

For the day tomorrow Colo. J. Vose.

For duty tomorrow the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

As the navigation of the Hudson is now, and will probably for some time be impracticable, the *Barges* which are in possession of officers are to be delivered to the Quarter Mr. General and all their crews returned to their respective regiments, except those in the service of the Quarter Master General, who will be wanted to man the Ice Boats; the Commander in Chief will return his own barge, and dismiss his Crew.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 1st Instant. Not having been consulted on, or made acquainted with any plans in contemplation for organizing the Independant Corps, or reforming the Cavalry at large, all that I can observe on the subject of your Letter at present, is, that in case any arrangement should take place, by which a command suitable to your rank can be conferred on you without injury to the feelings of other Gentlemen, it will be extremely satisfactory to me. I am etc.[46] [MD.H.S.]

[45] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.
[46] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, January 12, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has considered the case of Lt Cole[47] and has directed me to inform you that on its being fully ascertained that he applied in time and his being arranged is not owing to any neglect of his, there will be no objection to his being deranged, provided also that the state of the Line will now admit of it. I have the honor etc.[48]

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, January 12, 1783.

Sir: By a Letter of the 6th. from the Asst Secry at War, I find a quantity of Clothing was ready for transportation, and cannot but flatter myself it has been forwarded in the course of the last week as all the Articles are extremely wanted by the Troops at this vigorous season.

I am sorry to observe by a Letter from you to Mr Jackson, that the amount of shirts which have been and are to be sent on immediately will not be sufficient to give every man two, by several thousands. This is the more unfortunate, as by the information I had received from Philadelphia I have ventured to assure the Army that they should be supplied in a very short time with two shirts pr man, having thus pledged my honor, I shall hold myself responsible for their receiving what I have promised; which if the public cannot or will not perform I must take other means to have effected; relying fully on your exertions I am &c.[49]

[47] Lieut. Thomas Cole, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. He was aide-de-camp to General Paterson from 1780 to June, 1783.

[48] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

[49] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 10th. with its several enclosures.

I am pleased to learn that all the Cloathing on hand was to be forwarded last week. I hope no accident has intervened to prevent it; and that the number of shirts will be augmented so as to give every Man two including those lately sent on; this, from the encouragement which had been given, I have assured the Army will be the case. I am etc.[50]

GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters, Newburgh, Sunday, January 12, 1783.

Parole Quixotte. Countersigns Rippen, Sussex.

For the day tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell.

For duty tomorrow the 3d. Massachusetts regiment.

Captain J. Walker[51] of the 3d. Connecticut regiment is continued in the office of Major of Brigade to the Connecticut Brigade.

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 12, 1783.

Sir: The dispute of Territory between the States of Pennsylvania and Connecticut being now decided, and the frontiers remaining in a perfect state of tranquility; I cannot conceive any reason sufficient for continuing a body of Continental Troops any longer at Wyoming; I propose therefore to take an early occasion of recalling the Detachment of the Jersey Line;

[50] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[51] Capt. Joseph Walker. He served to June, 1783.

to this measure I am particularly induced, by the suffering situation of those Troops, the great inconveniency of relieving them, and the almost irreparable injury which is done to Discipline by keeping Troops on such Detach'd Commands of which I thought proper to give this intimation. I have the honor etc.[52]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, January 13, 1783.

Parole Tiverton. Countersigns Vienna, Wilton.

For the day tomorrow Major Pope.[53]

For duty tomorrow the 6th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commanding officers of the Connecticut, and Massachusetts Lines, are to make returns to the Adjutant General immediately of the officers who retired from service under the arrangement of the 1st. instant, noting particularly those who were entitled to remain; but have been permitted to retire agreably to the Resolves of the 19th. November.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 14, 1783.

Sir: I enclose a Letter from Major Tallmadge to your Excellency which came under a flying seal to my hands; the observations contained in it appear to be highly worthy of consideration.

The importance of absolutely cutting off all manner of commerce and illicit intercourse with the Enemy is so great, and at the same time so obvious, that I conceive it only necessary to recommend the subject, without enlarging upon it; in order

[52] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[53] Maj. Isaac Pope, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in June, 1783.

to engage Your Excellency to use your utmost endeavours to effect a purpose of such interesting consequence to the Public. I have the honor etc.[54]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, January 14, 1783.

Parole America. Countersigns Boston, Charlestown.

For the day tomorrow Lieutent. Colonel Vandyke.

For duty tomorrow the 2d. Massachusetts regiment.

The seventh Massachusetts regiment will march for the releif of the second Jersey regiment, on the Lines, on thursday the 16th. instant.

Captain John Carlile,[55] of General Hazens regiment, is appointed Assistt. Adjutant General, to take place with the New Arrangement. He is to be obeyed and respected accordingly.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, January 15, 1783.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Essex, Fort Pitt.

For the day tomorrow Major Fish.

For duty tomorrow the 8th. Massachusetts regt.

The honorable the Congress have been pleased to promote Colonels Greaton, and Putnam, of the Massachusetts Line, and Colonel Dayton of the Jersey Line to the rank of Brigadier Generals.

Brigadier General Greaton is appointed to the command of the 2d. and Brigadier General Putnam to the command of the 3d. Massachusetts Brigades.

[54] In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. This same letter was also sent (January 14) to Gov. George Clinton, of New York.

[55] Capt. John Carlisle (Carlile). He retired in July, 1783.

The Army will be inspected and mustered for the month of December on the following days: Newyork brigade on the 17th. instant. 1st. Massachusetts do on the 18th. 3d. do do the 19th. 2d. and 5th. Massa. regiments the 20th. 8th. do. do. the 21st. Maryland Detacht. and Jersey Brigde. 24th. and Hampshire the 23d.

The Garrison of Westpoint and 2d. Connecticut regt. for December and January on the 26th. 27th. and 28th. instant.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Sir: I have the pleasure to congratulate you on your late Promotion to the rank of B. General which took place in Congress the 7th Instant.

Your Commission arrived here yesterday and I shall keep it till I have the pleasure to deliver it to you in Person, which I must request may be as soon as possible, and that you come prepared to remain with your Brigade the remainder of the Winter. I am &c.

If Cap Schaack is not yet gone in to New York, I must request you to take measures to oblige him to go in.[56]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 1st. instant.

Congress have been pleased to promote Colonels Greaton, Dayton and Putnam to the rank of Brigadiers, by their Act of the 7th of this Month.

[56] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Altho' we have no official Accounts of the Evacuation of Charles Town, yet the certainty of that event is placed beyond dispute by the publications in New York; at which place General Leslie and part of the Garrison have arrived, the remainder have gone to the West Indies.

Should the King of Great Britain's speech to his Parliament, or any European Advices of consequence arrive sooner at the eastward, than in any other quarter; I shall be much obliged to you, for forwarding the same to me, as early as conveniently may be. I am etc.

P. S. Notwithstanding the pointed applications which have been made to General Glover, to return the Soldiers he took from the Army as Servants, or replace them with others, I find it has not yet been done. I beg you will inform him unless the requisition is immediately complied with, I shall think myself under the necessity of representing the matter to Congress.[57]

[MS. H.S.]

To CAPTAIN JOB SUMNER

Head Quarters, January 15, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief desires me to inform you, that upon mature consideration he does not think himself authorized to give an Order for the payment of your forage Account; because it would be contravening the regulation of Congress, as fixed in the late system for conducting the Qr Mastrs Department, which enumerates the Officers who shall alone be entitled to draw forage from the public and because it would not only operate in the present case, but establish a precedent in future; however, His Excellency will represent the matter to the Secy at War on his return from the eastward and obtain his sentiments thereon: I send back your Certificate and

[57] In the writing of David Humphreys.

Accounts that they may not be mislaid; and that you may have an opportunity of exhibiting them, whenever it shall be necessary. I am etc.[58]

*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Newburgh, January 15, 1783.

My dear Sir: When the Party arrived yesterday with the Sleigh, I was engaged with Mr. Howell;[59] before I was at liberty they had left this. This is my apology for not writing to you yesterday.

I have now to thank you for the Sleigh, which I think very handsome, convenient, and well executed. Shall I thank you for giving the Master Workman a couple of Guineas, to be laid out in liquor for those who have been engaged in this business?

Mrs. Washington joins in Compliments to Mrs. Knox, and I am with much truth and Affection etc.[60]

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON[61]

Newburgh, January 15, 1783.

Dear Bushrod: You will be surprized perhaps at receiving a letter from me; but if the end is answered for which it is written, I shall not think my time miss-spent.

Your Father, who seems to entertain a very favorable opinion of your prudence, and I hope you merit it: in one or two of his letters to me, speaks of the difficulty he is under to make you remittances. Whether this arises from the scantiness of his

[58] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

[59] Jacob S. Howell, Deputy Clothier General.

[60] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Thomas F. Madigan, of New York City.

[61] Nephew of General Washington and son of John Augustine Washington. He was an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1798 to 1829.

funds, or the extensiveness of your demands, is matter of conjecture, with me. I hope it is not the latter, because common prudence, and every other consideration which ought to have weight in a reflecting mind is opposed to your requiring more than his conveniency and a regard to his other Children will enable him to pay; and because he holds up no idea in his Letter, which would support me in the conclusion. yet when I take a view of the inexperience of Youth, the temptations in, and vices of Cities; and the distresses to which our Virginia Gentlemen are driven by an accumulation of Taxes and the want of a market; I am almost inclined to ascribe it, in part to both. Therefore, as a friend, I give you the following advice.

Let the object, which carried you to Philadelphia, be always before your Eyes; remember, that it is not the mere study of the Law, but to become eminent in the Profession of it which is to yield honor and profit; the first was your choice, let the second be your ambition. and that dissipation is incompatible with both.

That the Company in which you will improve most, will be least expensive to you; and yet I am not such a Stoic as to suppose you will, or to think it right that you ought, always to be in Company with Senators and Philosophers; but, of the young and juvenile kind let me advise you to be choice. It is easy to make acquaintances, but very difficult to shake them off, however irksome and unprofitable they are found after we have once committed ourselves to them; the indiscretions, and scrapes which very often they involuntarily lead one into, proves equally distressing and disgraceful.

Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence; true friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and

withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation.

Let your *heart* feel for the affliction, and distresses of every one, and let your *hand* give in proportion to your purse; remembering always, the estimation of the Widows mite. But, that it is not every one who asketh, that deserveth charity; all however are worthy of the enquiry, or the deserving may suffer.

Do not conceive that fine Clothes make fine Men, any more than fine feathers make fine Birds. A plain genteel dress is more admired and obtains more credit than lace and embroidery in the Eyes of the judicious and sensible.

The last thing I shall mention, is first of importance. and that is, to avoid Gaming. This is a vice which is productive of every possible evil. equally injurious to the morals and health of its votaries. It is the child of Avarice, the brother of inequity, and father of Mischief. It has been the ruin of many worthy familys; the loss of many a man's honor; and the cause of Suicide. To all those who enter the list, it is equally fascinating; the Successful gamester pushes his good fortune till it is over taken by a reverse; the loosing gamester, in hopes of retrieving past misfortunes, goes on from bad to worse; till grown desperate, he pushes at every thing; and looses his all. In a word, few gain by this abominable practice (the profit, if any, being diffused) while thousands are injured.

Perhaps you will say my conduct has anticipated the advice, and that "not one of these cases apply to me." I shall be heartily glad of it. It will add not a little to my happiness, to find those, to whom I am so nearly connected, pursuing the right walk of life; it will be the sure road to my favor, and to those honors, and places of profit, which their Country can bestow, as merit rarely goes unrewarded. I am, etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Thursday, January 16, 1783.

Parole Gottonburgh. Countersigns Hillsborough, Jersey.

For the day tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Barber.

For duty tomorrow the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

Commanding officers of Lines from which there are soldiers absent attending as servants on officers who have retired in consequence of the late arrangement, or left the service in any other way, will direct in pointed terms all such soldiers to join their corps without delay; and in case they shall neglect to comply with the order, their names, together with the names and ranks of the officers by whom they are retained, must be immediately reported to Head Quarters, that proper measures may be taken to enforce obedience.

*To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Newburgh, January 16, 1783.

My dear Brother: Since the letter which Bushrod delivered me in Philadelphia, I have received your favors of the 24th. of July from Westmoreland, and 12th. of Novr. from Berkley.

The latter gave me extreme pain. In Gods name how did my Brothr. Saml. contrive to get himself so enormously in debt? Was it by purchases? By misfortunes? or shear indolence and inattention to business? From whatever cause it proceeded, the matter is now the same, and curiosity only prompts the enquiry, as it does to know what will be saved, and how it is disposed of. In the list of his debts did it appear that I had a claim upon him for the purchase money of the

Land I sold Pendleton on Bullskin? I have never received a farthing for it yet, and think I have been informed by him that he was to pay it.

I have heard a favourable acct. of Bushrod, and doubt not but his prudence will direct him to a proper line of Conduct. I have given him my sentiments on this head; and perswade myself that, with the advice of Mr. Wilson,[62] to whose friendship as well as instruction in his profession I recommended him and the admontion [*sic*] of others, he will stand as good a chance as most youth of his age to avoid the Vices of large Cities, which have their advantages and disadvantages in fitting a man for the great theatre of public Life.

I have lately received a letter from my Mother in which she complains much *of the Knavery of the Overseer at the little Falls Quarter.* that She says she can get nothing from him. it is pretty evident I believe, that I get nothing from thence, which I have the annual rent of between Eighty and an hundred pounds to pay. *The whole profit of the Plantation according to her Acct. is applied to his own use,* which is rather hard upon me as I had no earthly inducement to meddle with it but to comply with her wish, and to free her from care, this like every other matter of private concern, with me, has been totally neglected; but it is too much while I am suffering in every other way (and hardly able to keep my own Estate from Sale), to be saddled with all the expence of hers and not be able to derive the smallest return from it. She has requested that I would get somebody to attend to it. I must therefore desire the favor of you to take it under your care. I know of none in whose hands it can be better placed, to none to whom it can be less inconvenient, and who is more interested in the good managemt. of the Land. For as it lyes directly in your Route to

[62] James Wilson.

Berkley, and in the Neighbourhood of our friends where you must always make a halt, it will give you very little additional trouble to provide an Overseer. Call upon him as you pass and repass, and set the annual Accts. with him, so as that I may have some knowledge of his transactions and a certainty that whatever is made goes towards payment of the Rent. I shall by this Post inform my Mother[63] of this application to you, hoping you will find no difficulty in the undertaking.

While I am talking of my Mother and her concerns, I am impelled to mention somethings which has given, and still continues to give me pain. About two years ago a Gentleman of my acquaintance[64] informed me that it was in contemplation to move for a pension for her in the Virginia Assembly. That he did not suppose I knew of the measure, or that it would be agreeable to me to have it done; but wished to know my sentiments on it. I instantly wrote him that it was new and astonishing to me and begged that he would prevent the motion if possible, or oppose it if made; for I was sure she had not a Child that would not share the last farthing with her, and that would not be hurt at the idea of her becoming a Pensioner, or in other words receiving charity. Since *then* I have heard nothing of *that* matter; but I learn from very good authority that she is upon all occasions, and in all Companies complaining of the hardness of the times, of her wants and distresses; and if not in direct terms, at least by strong innuendos inviting favors which not only makes *her* appear in an unfavourable point of view but *those* also who are connected with her. That she can have no *real* wants that may not be supplied I am sure of; *imaginary* wants are indefinite and oftentimes insatiable, because they are boundless and always

[63] The draft of this letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[64] Benjamin Harrison. (See Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, Mar. 21, 1781, *ante*.)

changing. the reason of my mentioning these matters to you is, that you may enquire into her real wants and see what is necessary to make her comfortable. If the Rent is insufficient to do this, while I have anything I will part with it to make her so; and wish you to take measures in my behalf accordingly; at the sametime I wish you to represent to her in delicate terms the impropriety of her complaints and acceptance of favors even where they are voluntarily offered, from any but relations. It will not do to touch upon this subject in a letter to her, and therefore I have avoided it.

I do not believe that Sir Guy Carleton gives any countenance to those dirty piccaroons that infest your Rivers. If they are encouraged at all, it must be by the Admiral in whose Element they are; but I am rather inclined to think that they are Navigated by a Lawless Banditti who would rob both sides with equal facility, if they could do it with equal impunity.

With respect to Peace, we are held in a very disagreeable state of suspence; and shall I expect remain in it till sometime in February. My opinion of it however, has been uniformly the same since the death of the Marquis of Rockingham and appointment of the present Premier. It is thought nothing would be concluded till the meeting of the British Parliament in November, and if the influence of the Crown could prevent it, that it would not take place even then, if the Independence of this Country is to be the consequence of it. . . .[65] tho' the patience of them is equally thread bear it seems to be a matter of small concern to those at a distance. In truth if one was to hazard an opinion . . .[65] that the Troops have ever yet been in.

I am very sorry to find that my Sister was in bad health. I suppose you are to be congratulated on your Gouty fit. My

[65] The omitted portions are identical with those in Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. John Armstrong, Jan. 10, 1783, *q. v.*

love in which Mrs. Washington joins is offered to you both, and to the rest of the Family. Compliments to all friends, with much sincerity I am etc.

To CAPTAIN EPHRAIM FENNO[66]

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 17, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief expects whenever there are two Field Officers with the Regt. on the Lines, that one of them will take the Command of the Posts at Kings Ferry and at other times that the senior Officer present will have the general superintendance of them.

As to the salted provisions which is in danger of being spoiled; His Excellency thinks, if it is the property of the present Contractors, their Commissary at Kings ferry ought to be informed of it, that he may take measures to have it issued or put in better order; and indeed if it belongs to the public, he wishes similar measures may be adopted without delay. I am &c.[67]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Friday, January 17, 1783.

Parole Kalendar. Countersigns Louisbough, Madiera.

For the day tomorrow Major Oliver.[68]

For duty tomorrow the Maryland Detachment.

In consequence of the promotion of Brigadrs. Generals, Greaton, Putnam, and Dayton, Lieutenant Colonel Mellon is

[66] Of the Second Continental Artillery. He was transferred to the corps of artillery in June, 1783, and served to June, 1784.

[67] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys, A. D. C."

[68] Maj. Robert Oliver, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

On January 17 Benjamin Walker wrote to Jonathan Smith, the State recruiting officer for Massachusetts, explaining the case of Joseph and William Hackney, charged with a double enlistment. Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

posted to the 3d. and Lieutenant Colo. Cobb to the 5th. Regiments of Massachusetts, as Lieutenant Colonels commandants. Lieutenant Colonel Barber takes command of the 2d. regiment of Jersey as Lieutenant Colonel Commandant. Major General Gates will be pleased to ascertain what transference of officers from one corps to another will be rendered necessary in consequence of this arrangement, and post them accordingly.

It is with great pleasure the General communicates to the Army the following translation of a Letter, he received yesterday from the Minister of France:

To HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON AND THE AMERICAN ARMY

Philadelphia, January 10, 1783.

Gentlemen: His Majesty has been informed of the marks of Joy, shewn by the American Army, on the birth of the Dauphin; and it has given him great satisfaction to see the part which the American officers and soldiers have taken in that happy event.

The King has ordered me to make known to you, his sensibility on this Occasion and has charged me to assure the American Army and the General who commands it, of his affection and particular Esteem.

I have the honor to be etc.[69]

To COLONEL WALTER STEWART

Head Quarters, January 18, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am extremely happy to hear from some Gentlemen, who very lately left Philadelphia, of your recovery; and I take the more pleasure in congratulating you on this event, from having once almost despaired that it would ever happen; this was in consequence of the repeated accounts I had received of your dangerous illness.

[69] The original of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

I cannot now omit taking the first opportunity of mentioning the state of the Inspection Department to you. Notwithstanding I am convinced that Major Barber uses the greatest diligence, and does as much as is in the power of any one Man towards accomplishing the business of Inspecting and Mustering the Troops Monthly; yet it scarcely need be suggested, that without more assistance, the Department must lose, in a great degree its efficiency and utility, and dwindle into a name only; it is for these reasons that I feel exceedingly anxious for your return to the Army; and especially as the great object in taking a Cantonment of repose for the Winter was to improve the tranquility of that season, by encreasing the emulation, and establishing the Discipline of the Army; and by introducing a perfect system of police to render the Troops more and more fit for the activity of service at the opening of the Campaign; to which purposes I flattered myself the frequency and exactness of Inspections would have greatly contributed; I shall therefore expect to hear from you, or rather to see you, as soon as it can possibly be made convenient for you to undertake the Journey. [bring Mrs Stewart with you, and then your temptation to return to Phila will not be so powerful.] I am etc.[70]

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, January 18, 1783.

Sir: It is the Commander in Chiefs pleasure that you issue five hundred Woolen Caps, five hundred Socks and five hundred pr of Mits to Capt Ten Eyck Pay Mastr of Col Willets Regt. for the use of that and Col Olney Regt; also such other Articles as you may have in store, which are wanted by sd

[70] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

Regts; the same to be delivered on account, and proper vouchers Recd. for the whole, when the Cloathing is issued to them which is daily expected from Philadelphia. I am etc.[71]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Saturday, January 18, 1783.

Parole Netherlands. Countersigns Oporto, Pandora.

For the day tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Mellen.

For duty tomorrow the 1st Jersey regiment.

It is the intention of the Commander in chief that the order of the 20th of December last respecting returning the Marques and other Tents to the Quarter Master General by the 20th instant shall be strictly complied with, in every instance.

The Quarter Master General will not only report all delinquent officers, but will lodge their names with an estimate of the value of the Marques &ca. retained by them at the pay office. that the amount may be deducted by the Pay-Master from the first money belonging to such officers which shall be put into his hands. The General is induced to give this further order on the subject because he has been informed the former has been understood by some to relate particularly to soldiers Tents; and consequently that a compliance with respect to other Tents might be dispenced with under certain circumstances.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Sunday, January 19, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Rumney, Suffolk.

For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs.

[71] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys. A. D. C."

For duty tomorrow the first York regiment.

The Commander in chief gives his sanction to the agreement which has been entered into between Brigadr. General Greaton, Colonel H. Jackson and Major Fish in behalf of the regiments therein named, on the one part, and the Contractors for supplying the Army in the States of New-York and Jersey with rations of Provisions on the other, respecting the commutation of certain componant parts of the rations; as specified in the original agreement which will be lodged at the Orderly office.

At a general courtmartial assembled at New windsor cantonment Decr. 16th. 1782 by order of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, Colonel Greaton President.

Captain Phenias Bowman of the 5th. Massa. regiment was tried for conducting himself in a manner unbecoming an officer and Gentleman toward the Commanding officer of his regiment.

The Court are of opinion the charge against Captn. Bowman is not supported in every particular but find him guilty of conduct, amounting to a breach of Art. 5th. sec. 18th. of the rules and Art. of war and sentence him to ask pardon of Lieutenant Colonel Newhall publickly at the head of the 2d Massachusetts Brigade and to be suspended from the service for the space of three months.

The Commander in Chief confirms the sentence.

The General courtmartial of which Colo. Greaton was president is desolved.

A General courtmartial of which Colo. Michael Jackson is appointed President, will assemble tomorrow morning ten o'clock at the presidents quarters for the Tryal of such persons as shall be brought before them: Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell, Major Pope, three Captains from the Newyork, One from the 1st. Massachusetts, three from the 2d., two from the third, and

one from the New Hampshire brigade to attend as members. All evidences and persons concerned are ordered to attend the court.

To SAMUEL OGDEN

Newburg, January 19, 1783.

Sir: In every conversation which I have had with you, on the subject of your Letters of the 31st. of last month, and 15th. inst: I was pointed; because I meant to deal candidly, in assuring you, it was not my intention to interest myself in behalf of any particular characters, that my motives were altogether public, and that if I could not take the business up upon the broadest basis, and while a defection on the part of the Refugees would be productive of advantages to the American cause, I would have no concern with it.

I am sorry to observe to you, that there appears to me, to be a delay on the part of the refugees or Loyalists, which is to be ascribed more to design than to necessity. It seems as if the object with them, was to get at the ultimatum of Great Britain before any decided steps should be taken with the country they have abandoned. This, Sir, you will do me the justice to acknowledge, is not only incompatible with my ideas, but to my express declaration to you: for the foundation on which I meant to build, and the *only* one upon which I could attempt to include, and recommend obnoxious characters, was their decision and influence; and the consequent advantages, while the intention of the enemy should be suspended and unknown.

The matter has already been near three months in agitation, and for aught that has come to my knowledge, is yet, in statu quo. One month, perhaps, a few days *now,* will unfold the designs of the British cabinet, or rather those of the Parliament.

Let me ask then, if these be to prosecute the war vigorously, will the Gentlemen of that class, in whose behalf you particularly interest yourself (after their address to the King of Great Britain, which I have lately seen) give any aid to this country? If the determination is in favor of Peace, and Peace takes place on the terms which are expected, will not their inveterate obstinacy, and present procrastination, put it out of the power of any man, to adduce an argument in their favour?

I confess to you, Sir, their policy strikes me in so unfavourable point of view, that I no longer find an inclination to have any further agency in the business; for I am convinced from their address, and other circumstances, that they will never turn their faces towards this country, 'till the back of Great Britain is turn'd upon them. And that their delay proceeds from no other cause, than an intention to await the event of their application in another Quarter.

I have only to add, that I am the more confirmed in this opinion, upon observing that there is no idea held up in the copy of your Brothers Letter of the 3d. of December (the original of which never came to my hands), or in any of the subsequent ones, which gives the smallest insight into the business; or that will support me in any deduction favourable to it; the former of which is expressly contrary to the information I received from you at our last interview, as the Letter from your brother to you (which was to pass thro' my hands) was to be couched in such terms, as I should understand, tho' unintelligable to others, who shou'd be unacquainted with the business. Your own letter of the 31st. committed to the care of Mr. Morris was brought here a few days ago *only,* by a common soldier, who delivered it at the office, and retired before I had read, and cou'd enquire how he came by it, nor do I know at this hour.

Upon the maturest consideration, Sir, I have so fully made up my judgment on this subject, that I could wish never to hear any thing farther upon it. I am etc.

I intended to have sent this letter by Mr. Faesch;[72] but not havg. seen, or heard from him since he cross'd to the East side of the river, I commit it to the post.[73]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

Sir: Your Pay Mastr will inform you that besides the usual proportion of cloathing, a Number of Articles have been issued, ostensibly for the use of Olney's and your Regt; but in reality, they are designed only for the object you have in contemplation; unless it is attempted, I would not have any of the Woolen *Socks, Caps, or Mitts* distributed among the Troops, I have ordered them all therefore to be addressed to you and to await your Orders. I am etc.[74]

*To LADY STIRLING

Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

My Lady: Having been informed by a Letter of the 14th. Instt. from Captn. Sill[75] of the unspeakable loss[76] Your Ladyship has experienced, I feel the sincerest dispositions to alleviate by sympathy or participation those sorrows which I am sensible cannot be removed or effaced. for this purpose, I would also have suggested every rational topic of consolation, was I

[72] John Jacob Faesch.

[73] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

[74] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[75] Capt. Richard Sill, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was a major and aide to Lord Stirling from September, 1781, to January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[76] Lord Stirling died at Albany, N. Y., on Jan. 14, 1783, and was buried January 16.

not fully perswaded that the principles of Philosophy and Religion of which you are possessed had anticipated every thing I could say on the subject.

It only remains then, as a small but just tribute to the memory of My Lord Stirling to express how deeply I share in the common affliction, on being deprived of the public and professional assistance, as well as the private friendship of an Officer of so high Rank with whom I had lived in the strictest habits of amity; and how much those Military Merits of his Lordship which rendered him respected in his life time, are now regretted by the whole Army.

It will doubtless be a soothing consideration in the poignancy of your grief to find that the General Officers are going into Mourning for My Lord.

Mrs. Washington joins me in requesting that your Ladyship and Lady Kitty will be assured that we feel the tenderest sensibility on this melancholy occasion. With Sentiments of perfect Esteem etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

Sir: I have the melancholy task before me, of acquainting your Excellency and Congress of the death of Major General Lord Stirling. The remarkable bravery, intelligence, and promptitude of his Lordship to perform his duty as an Officer, had endeared him to the whole Army; and now make his loss the more sincerely regretted.

In consequence of the resolution of Congress of the 27th of Novembr., for apprehending Luke Knowlton of Newfane, and Samuel Welles of Brattleborough I wrote on the 9 of December to Lord Stirling who commanded at the Northward, giving the

necessary advices and instructions, and committing the execution of that business to his Lordships discretion. By the enclosed report of Captain McComber[77] of the Rhode Island Regiment, the Officer employed on this service, I doubt not Congress will be convinced, that the measures adopted by my Lord, and the conduct of Captain Macomber in consequence thereof, were very judiciously calculated to carry their resolution into effect, notwithstanding they have failed of success.[78] As the real object still remains a secret, the Letter I had directed to be delivered Mr. Chittendon, as soon as Knowlton and Welles should be apprehended, has been suppressed; so that, should it be thought requisite to make another Effort hereafter, the probability of succeeding in apprehending the persons in question, will not be lessened by the former attempt. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I am honord with your Letter of the 16th. and thank you for the important intelligence contained in it.[79]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Monday, January 20, 1783.

Parole Tunbridge. Countersigns Victory, Willoby.

For the day tomorrow Colonel H. Jackson.

For duty the second York regiment.

Captain Trotter[80] of the 5th. Massachusetts regiment is appointed Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Putnam, and is to be respected as such.

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[77] Capt. Ebenezer Macomber (McCumber). He served to March, 1783.

[78] A copy of Captain Macumber's report to Stirling (Jan. 7, 1783) is filed with this letter from Washington, in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

[79] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

[80] Capt. John Trotter. He was aide to Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam to the close of the war.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, January 21, 1783.

Parole Xenophon. Countersigns Yarmouth, Zealous.
For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Newhall.
For duty the 1st Hampshire regiment.

To COLONEL JOSEPH VOSE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: A representation having been made to me by the Civil Authority of this State, that sometime in the Month of July last a Warrant was issued for apprehending Lieut. Nathl Stone[81] of your Regt. for the Murder of Capt Luke Hitchcock[82] of the said Regt, and that the Officer charged with the execution thereof hath, never been able to apprehend the said Lieut Stone; whereupon I find myself under the necessity of pointing you to the 1st Art of the 10th Sect of the Articles of War, for the government of your conduct on the premises, in case any future application should be made to you by the Authority of the State. I am etc.[83]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: I have lately received your Letter of the 4th and have now to give my approbation to the Plan contained therein, for suppressing the illicit intercourse which prevails so scandalously with the Enemy. As this is an object in itself very important, and particularly recommended by Congress I cannot but

[81] Capt. Nathaniel Stone, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1784.
[82] Captain Hitchcock was killed by Stone in a duel at West Point in February, 1782.
[83] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

think it proper that the Boatmen actually employed to assist you in the performance of this service, should be entitled to receive public provisions. You are therefore, hereby authorized to draw from the Contractors for such proportion of them as you shall judge essentially necessary; taking care to limit the number as much as the circumstances will admit, to prevent impositions of every kind, and to give the Vouchers in such manner as that they may be authenticated by a farther sanction from Head Quarters if necessary.

The Quarter Mastr Genl upon your application to him, will give what aid he is able towards furnishing Fuel for your Command. I am etc.[84]

To JOSEPH CHANDLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 21, 1783.

Sir: By an accidental conveyance, I recd some time ago the Representation you was pleased to address to me on the 25 Ulto. respecting the apprehension of Lt Stone of the 1st Masstts Regt. for the murder of Capt Hitchcock of the same Regt; having been until then, totally unacquainted with the circumstances of that unhappy affair some time has been unavoidably consumed in investigating and pointing out the proper line of conduct to be adopted thereon, which must be understood as the reason of my not answering sooner your application.

I have now, Sir, to acquaint you, that such instructions have been given to the Commandg Officer of the 1st Masstts Regt as will upon proper application, undoubtedly render effectual

[84] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

On January 21 Benjamin Walker wrote to Lieut. Col. Francis Barber concerning the discharge of a minor. "The General wishes an Enquiry to be made whether the . . . facts are truly stated and and if there are any other circumstances attending the matter." Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

an attempt to apprehend the Person in question in consequence of a criminal prosecution which shall be legally instituted against him by the Civil Authority. I am &c.[85]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Newburgh, January 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: On the 20th by your Pay master, I informed you that besides the usual proportion of Clothing I had sent to your orders Woolen Caps, Socks, and Mitts for the intended Enterprise, to be made use of or not according to the circumstances. I have also written to Mr. Duer[86] who is now at Albany, to lay in a Months Provisions for a hundred men at each of the Posts of Forts Renselaer and Herkimer.[87] And, till farther orders have placed the Rhode Isld. Regiment under your direction.

For the reasons you assign, I approve of the time proposed for the Attack,[88] and suppose it will be necessary for you to begin your March from Fort Herkimer at the time you mention, viz. on the 8th or 9th of next Month. If the Sleighing should be good, and business does not prevent it I will endeavour to be at that place, or Fort Renselaer by that time; but of this you will take no notice to *any body* nor suffer it to have any influence on your preparations or conduct before or at the time as many things may intervene to detain me.

All that remains to be done is now with you to do, and as the matter is between ourselves and you have better information of the situation of the enemy and difficulty in getting at them than I; I have only to request you to act from your best

[85] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[86] William Duer.

[87] On January 22 Washington wrote Duer that it was necessary "That One Months Provision for One hundred Men should be always kept on hand at Fort Herkimer and at Fort Rensalaer on the Mohawk River," and ordering such supply to be laid in. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The letter sent is in the New York Historical Society.

[88] On Oswego, N. Y.

judgment under a firm perswasion that the enterprise in contemplation was even better known than it is no imputation could fall on you for having laid it aside if the difficulties in the way, or a want of information should be greater than appeared at first view. Let me hear from you and if possible by the 3d. or 4th. of next Month. I am etc.[89] [M.L.]

To CAPTAIN RICHARD SILL

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your several Letters of the 11th. 14th and 17th Jany one of them informing me of the Death of Majr. Genl Lord Stirling, whose loss is universally regretted by the Army, and I am exceeding sorry that it was not possible to shew those marks of respect at his funeral, which were due to his Lordship's Rank and Merit. I am &c.[90]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Dear Smith: I have received yours of the 20th. and laid the subject of it before the General, who is clearly of opinion, as Congress have left no latitude for partial exchanges in their Act of the 16 of Octr. that it is not in his power to give any discretionary Orders and it would I am persuaded be disagreeable to urge the matter previous however to that Act it is recollected application had been made by Genl Knox for the exchange of an Officer (I think it was Lt Sutherland)[91] to which the Genls assent was given. Should Mr Sutherland appear to be the

[89] Washington wrote on the address cover: "The Qr. Master at Albany is to forward this with dispatch."

[90] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

[91] Lieut. Alexander Sutherland, of the British Engineers.

Gentleman alluded to, the exchange may be considered as having been carried into execution at the before mentioned time, and an Officer of ours liberated in consequence. As to the hardships experienced by other individuals, in consequence of a long captivity, all we can do is to feel for them; it rests alone with their own party to liberate them by entering into a Genl Cartel.

Mrs. Washington requests me to thank you in her name for the Almanac, we all remember you as we ought, particularly your friend.

P. S. Official Accts of the *Evacuation* of Charles Town have arrived at Phil. by Majr Burnet, previous to which Genl Greene had effected a universal exchange of all Prisoners in that Quarter.[92]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the rect. of your two favors of the 27 and 31st. December and to acquaint you that agreably to the latter I have drawn on you in favor of Mr. Andrew Billings for forty Guineas for the purposes specified in the draft.

Inclosed is copy of an application made to me by Colo. Varick on the subject of Pay for his Writers; this business is getting into such a state of forwardness that I am in hopes Colo Varick will soon be able to continue it with only one Writer; twenty-seven large folio Volumes are now nearly compleated.

Mr. Skinner who passed here lately informs me that he has sent to Mr. Turner all the papers he had in his possession relative to the department of Naval Prisoners. With great Esteem etc.[93]

[92] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphreys."
[93] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

*To DANIEL PARKER[94]

Newburgh January 22, 1783.

Sir: It did not occur to me at the moment you were so obliging as to profer your Services at Boston that I was in want of as much superfine Buff Cloth (not of the yellow kind) as would make me a Vest Coat Breechs. and facings to a Coat; and that It was my wish to get as much Buff-Silk-Shag as would line a Coat and Vest-Coat. Inclosed I send a sample of the *kind* wanted, and shall thank you for procurg. and bg. these things with you.

Mrs. Washington will thank you for getting for her Six yards of very fine Jacanet Muslin, Yard and half wide. The cost of these things shall be paid upon your arrival in Camp.[95] I am etc.

To ANDREW BILLINGS

Head Quarters, January 22, 1783.

Sir: On recurring to Mr. Morris's Letter I find that I mistook its contents, and that I was to draw on him for the Amount of your demand. I therefore now inclose you my bill on the Hon Rob Morris Esqr. of this date for Forty Guineas, payable at sight.[96] I am &c.[97]

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[94] A New York merchant and head of the firm of Daniel Parker & Co., contractors for supplying the Army with provisions.

[95] On January 22 Washington wrote to David Henley, formerly colonel of one of the Sixteen Additional Continental regiments: "If Mr. Parker should have left Boston I will thank you for opening the inclosed Letter to him and complying with the Contents of it. . . . I would be glad to get the Articles wrote for as soon as possible." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[96] The payment was for engraving the inscription upon the cannon presented by Congress to Comte de Rochambeau.

[97] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On this same day (January 22) Washington also wrote briefly to Colonel Olney, as officer commanding the Rhode Island regiment: "You will (Majr. Genl. Lord Stirling being dead) put yourself under the Orders of Colo. Willet (till a superior Officer shall arrive) and with your Regiment pay obedience to his Orders." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The letter sent is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, January 22, 1783.

Parole Alexandria. Countersigns Baltimore, Cambridge.

For the day tomorrow Major Grahame.

For duty the 1st. Massachusetts regiment.

The death of Major General Lord Sterling having happened at such a distance from this Army, that his funeral could not be attended with the Military honors due to his rank, the Commander in chief however wishes as a testimony of respect to the memory of his Lordship, that the General officers and such others as think proper, would go into mourning, one Month on the occasion, by wearing a Crape, or weed during that time.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, January 23, 1783.

Parole Devonshire. Countersigns Essex, Fallmouth.

For the day tomorrow Col. J. Vose.

For duty tomorrow the 2d. Hampshire regiment.

The evacuation of Charlestown and the total liberation of the southern states from the power of the enemy are important events of which the Commander in Chief has now received official information. It is with heartfelt satisfaction he takes an early opertunity of making it known; and of congratulating the army on the favorable prospects before us. The enemy after more than a seven years War, and all their boasted conquests, being now reduced to narrower limits and a weaker force than they were possessed of seven years ago.

The Commander in Chief thinks there could not be a more proper occasion than this Epocha, to express the sense he entertains of the exalted Merits of the Troops which have been

employed in the southern Department, the extraordinary abilities, bravery and prudence displayed by Major Genl. Green in conducting the operations; the patient virtue and invincible fortitude exhibited by the officers and men in seconding his efforts, amidst innumerable difficulties and hardships, through a long and severe contest, against superior numbers, will entitle them all to the gratitude of their Countrymen, the applause of the present age, and the admiration of posterity.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, January 24, 1783.

Parole Geneva. Countersigns Holland, Ireland.

For the day tomorrow Major Morrill.

For duty the fourth Massachusetts regiment.

Report having been made to the Commander in chief, that when the Country people come to the hutts with marketting, they are frequently Maltreated and plundered by the soldiers, which conduct is not only scandalous in itself but injurious to the Army, as well as the Inhabitants, by tending to discourage the latter from returning again to the Cantonment; To remedy these abuses, the Quarter Master General will point out one, or more places, at which Provisions, Roots, Vegitables &ca. designed for the Army are to be exposed to sale.

Proper Guards will be appointed for the protection of such as shall attend, with an officer or officers whose duty it will be to superintend the Markett and preserve good order.

If any soldier shall attempt to purchase before the articles arrive at the appointed places he will be subject to corporal punishment by the Judgement of a Courtmartial; but if on such an occasion he shall be guilty of any imposition, fraud or other abuses, prompt punishment shall be inflicted on the spot, that the example may be held out as a terror to others.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, January 24, 1783.

Sir: By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 31st Decr. you will observe, to what period the reduction of the Lines therein named, is postponed; Nothing, I suppose, will prevent its being carried into execution at that time, except the Regts should be previously compleated to the Establishment ordered in the Resolution of the 7th of Augst last, I thought it expedient to give you this information, and to desire you will advise me of the measures which have been taken, and the prospect there is of compleating the Rhode Island Regt; as I have not heard one word from the State on the subject. I am etc.[98] [R.I.H.S.]

To MAJOR WILLIAM SCOTT OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BRIGADE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 24, 1783.

Sir: Upon observing the naked and forlorn situation of your Recruits of last year, and in general the indifferent appearance which the whole Brigade made yesterday under Arms, I am induced to order the two Regts. to be immediately put in perfect uniform; to obtain the necessary instructions for which, you will without loss of time apply to Head Quarters.

This measure is adopted not only with a design to put the two Regts of N Hampshire at least on a level with the other Troops, but even to give them such an advantage in point of appearance as will attone for the inconveniencies they have suffered by so long a detachment from the Army the disadvantages incident to which state, have hitherto been their apology; but, Sir, I shall expect from this Moment, that no favorable

[98] In the writing of David Humphreys.

allowances will be required by them, but on the contrary that a spirit of emulation and passion to excel in discipline as well as appearance will prevail amongst your Troops in so great a degree, as to entitle them to honorable Notice, instead of public reprehension at a future Inspection; for I propose to see them again under Arms in the course of this Winter. I beg you to communicate the purport of this Letter to all the Officers of your Line, and to inform them that I shall rely upon their most zealous and unremitting exertions to put the Troops under their Orders, on the most respectable footing, before the opening of the next Campaign. I am etc.[99]

To CHRISTOPHER COLLES [1]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, January 25, 1783.

Sir: At the same time I am to acknowledge the rect of your Letter of the 17th. inst. and to agree with you in sentiment that nothing can be attempted in the Works you project,[2] so long as the War continues, I must take the liberty also to inform you candidly I do not imagine, that the State of Virginia, or either of the southern States or Companies of Gentlemen in them, will, for many years to come, think themselves sufficiently interested in the commerce of the great Rivers you mention,[3] to incur any considerable expence in opening the Navigation of them.

You may be assured, Sir, I can be actuated with no unfriendly motive in thus giving you my opinion, and that I should not

[99] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On January 24 Washington wrote to Lieut. Col. Edward Antill that he was surprised he had not joined his corps and "directing that you forthwith repair to and remain with the Regt. to which you belong." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[1] A civil engineer, then at Morristown, N. J.

[2] His project was the removal of the obstructions in the Ohio River, to secure an open navigation to the Mississippi.

[3] Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

discourage the Project did I not apprehend you would meet with insuperable difficulties. for the plan is, I believe, not only practicable in itself, but if executed, would hereafter be of immense advantage in its consequences: and indeed I have no doubt it will in some future age (which perhaps the rapid increase of population and wealth after the War may precipitate beyond all calculation) be carried into execution.

But from the present juvenile state of the Country, the abundance of land, the scarcity of labourers, and the want of resources, I say from these, and many other circumstances, it appears to me that this is too early a day for accomplishing such great undertakings; and that it would be more advisable to turn your attention and abilities to works of more facility in the performance and of more immediate public utility, in attempting which you will doubtless experience the encouragement and Patronage of all who are friendly to the liberal and useful Arts, as well as the interests of society and their Country. With due regard I am etc.

P. S. There was a Scheme just at the Commencement of this War for opening the navigation of the Potowmack; this, from the troubles of the times was laid aside, but I think it far more likely to succeed than that suggested in your Letter.[4]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: I was yesterday favoured with your Letter of the 20th.

There appears to be so much force in the reasons you give for extending the furloughs in your Regiment beyond the limitation of General Orders, that I shall not hesitate to grant you that authority, only desiring you will use it with the utmost

[4] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

discretion and confine the indulgence to characters which are absolutely to be relied upon and to cases of the first necessity, your regard for the reputation of your Regiment and zeal for the service I am satisfied will prevent this permission from being abused.

I thank you very sincerely for your exertions to put a stop to the illicit trade with the Enemy, and I have to request, that you will not remit your endeavours to effect that important purpose. Should the fact of attempting to carry any Provisions to the Enemy be proved against Baldwin[5] and his party on their Trial. I do not see what can save them from an infamous and exemplary death; by the late Law of Jersey. I am certain nothing ought to; and indeed it will be in vain for the Military power (tho' earnestly called upon by Congress) to expect to destroy this pernicious intercourse, unless the Civil will rigidly carry their own Laws into execution.[6]

By the enclosed you will see the sentiments of all the General Officers now present with the Army on the subject of your Memorial; in consequence of which, if the Memorialists choose to prosecute the Judge Advocate[7] before a Military Court, it will be necessary to reduce the Allegations to specific Charges, and transmit them to me without delay, that an investigation may immediately take place. I shall suspend the publication of the Proceedings in the case of Major Reid,[8] until I hear the farther determination of those concerned, which I desire may be at as early a day as possible. In all events it will be at the option of the Gentlemen who consider themselves aggrieved in the

[5] Elias Baldwin. He was formerly a lieutenant in Spencer's Additional Continental regiment.

[6] To this point the text is from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress. The remainder of the letter is from an extract, in the writing of David Humphreys, so labeled. The P. S. is also from the Varick Transcripts.

[7] Lieut. Thomas Edwards.

[8] Maj. James Randolph Reid.

present instance to avail themselves of the ulterior expedient pointed out by the Board of General Officers.[9] I am etc.

P. S. No furloughs must on any account extend beyond the 15th of April.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD ANTILL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: The several Papers you honored me with this morng. have been duly laid before the Commander in Chief, and I have it in command from him to inform you, that as the Arrangement of Issues to the Canadian Refugees has originated from and been immediately established by the secy at War, any Alterations or innovations, in it, he thinks ought necessarily to come from the same quarter; and Gen Lincoln being now soon expected from the Eastward, His Excellency conceives it proper to refer you to him, for his decision and Orders on the subject. I am etc.[10]

*To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Newburgh, January 25, 1783.

Sir: I was hurt yesterday at the appearance of the Detachment under your Command; as I conceive you must have been, if you viewed and drew a comparison between it, and the Regiment on your Left. The Clothes of the latter, have been

[9] Brigadier General Hazen and the officers who brought the charges against Major Reid considered that through the conduct of the Judge Advocate General "They have been deprived of the Redress They conceived They had a right to expect." The expedient pointed out was that if the uprightness of the Judge Advocate appeared after investigation, "the only Redress the parties who Suppose themselves Injured can Obtain, will be, an Inquiry into their Conduct before a Court, convened for that purpose, at which Major Reid might be ordered to Attend, to Support His Allegations." This report is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Jan. 23, 1783.

[10] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A D C."

upon the Soldier's backs almost, if not quite, Twelve Months, while it is scarce Six since any part of yours has been issued.

Dirt and Trash too, of every denomination, was so liberally strewed, even, upon your Parade; and immediately before the doors of your Hutts; that it was difficult to avoid the filth.

The true distinction, Sir, between what is called a fine Regiment, and an indifferent one, will ever, upon investigation, be found to originate in, and depend upon the care, or the inattention, of the Officers belonging to them. That Regiment, whose Officers are watchful of their Men, and attentative to their wants, who will see that proper use is made, and a proper account taken, of whatever is drawn for them; and that Regimental and Company Inspections are frequent, in order to examine into the state of their Arms, Ammunition, Clothing and other necessaries to prevent loss or embezzlement. Who will see that the Soldiers Clothes are well made, kept whole, and Clean. That their Hutts are swept and purified; that their Provisns is in good order well Cooked, and Eat at proper hours; that the Trash, and all kinds of Offal is either burnt, or buried; That Vaults or proper necessaries are erected, and every person punished who shall on these occasions go elsewhere in the Camp. Those Officers I say who attend to these things, and their duty strictly enjoins it on them, give health, comfort, and a Military pride to their Men which fires and fits them for everything great and noble. It is by this means the character of a Regiment is exalted, while Sloth inattention and neglect produce the reverse of these in every particular and must infallibly lessen the reputation of the Corps.

I observe with concern that none of your Officers had Espontoons, that some of them were even without Side Arms, and of those that had, some were so remiss in their duty as not to know they were to salute with them; from these considerations I am

led to point you to the Genl. Orders of the 9th. of August and 1st. of September; And to recommend in pointed terms to your Officers the necessity and advantage of making themselves perfectly master of the Printed "Regulations for the order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States." Ignorance of them, cannot nor will it be, any excuse; while it may bring disgrace on the Corps they belong to, and produce much confusion in the Army, if they should form and manœuvre with it.

As it is the first time I have seen them under Arms, and some allowance is to be made for the rawness of the Corps, I will substitute admonition in place of reprehension; but it is my desire that you should inform the officers I shall expect to see a very great alteration in the police of the Corps and appearance of the Men before the next Inspection. The Soldiers of your detachment, with a few exceptions, would look very well in the line of the Army if their Clothes were in good order, well fitted, and the men made to appear Neat and Clean. I am etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, January 25, 1783.

Parole Keppell. Countersigns Lambert, Medway.
For the day tomorrow Major Redding.[11]
For duty the third Massachusetts regiment.

To MAJOR LEMUEL TRESCOTT

Head Quarters, January 25, 1783.

Sir: Your two Letters one to Colo Humphreys and the other to the General were recd; the Contractors say they will instantly send a person to supply your detachment with Provision.

[11] Maj. Samuel Reading (Redding).

His Excellency directs that Prisoners of War Exchanged or on Parole need not in future be sent to head Quarters; this instruction to be given to the Officer who relieves you. I am &c.[12]

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, January 26, 1783.

Parole Narraganset. Countersigns Oswego, Princeton.
For the day tomorrow Lieutenant Colonel Vandyke.
For duty the sixth Massachusetts regiment.

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 26, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief is pleased to Order that compleat suits of Uniform Clothing shall be immediately issued to the two Regts of New Hampshire agreeably to the Returns which will be made by them. It is also His Excellency's desire that you will assort the Clothing to be issued into different sizes, in such manner as will be most benificial to the Public and convenient for fitting the several Articles to the Troops for whom they are intended. I am etc.[13]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 27, 1783.

Sir: I have to request you will, as soon as possible, give me an Estimate of all those things in your Department (noting the expence of each in the best manner you are able) which will be requisite to enable our Army to take the field and prosecute

[12]The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."
[13]The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys Aid de Camp."

vigorous operations, in case the War should continue another Campaign; In this Estimate I would have comprehended particularly the means of transportation by land and Water, viz Horses and Teams for the Artillery and Baggage, Forage, Wheel Carriages, Boats, Artificers, Waggoners and Watermen; also Tools, Tents, Camp Equipage of all kinds and in general every Article that comes properly within your Province.

It is likewise my wish, Sir, that you would exhibit at the same time a state of your Department annexed to the beforementioned Estimate in such manner as to shew at a single view, which of those Articles the Public is, or may be possessed of, from your present resources; and what specific Articles must be provided, by ways and Means which are yet to be devised.

I can scarcely expect your Estimate to be perfectly accurate in all respects, it will be sufficient for my purpose, to have the best calculation you can make, as founded upon the established Allowances, the current Prices, and your own experience. As to the number of Troops for whom provision is to be made, I can only observe, that altho, in your present Estimate it may be sufficient to include eight complete Regts in addition to the force now in this quarter, yet in case offensive Operations should be ultimately resolved on, a very considerable number of Tents, and many other Articles would be required for the Militia that must then be called into service. I am, etc.

P.S. Upon farther consideration I shall have occasion for duplicate Estimates, which I desire you to have made out accordingly. Three new Marques will be wanted for the Gentlemen of my family next Campaign. and exclusive of these one to be exchanged for that now in my possession as I mentioned to you.

I must also desire you to take the earliest opportunity the weather may afford to have all the Boats that are repairable put

in the best order for service; as I propose to accustom the Troops, as soon as the river is navigable, to the Manœuvres of embarkation and debarkation.[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, January 27, 1783.

Parole Quarterly. Countersigns Reading, Sterling.
For the day tomorrow Major Fish.
For duty the second Massa. regiment.

To WILLIAM P. SMITH

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Sir: I delayed answering your Letter of the 5 Instant[15] only 'till I could cause the necessary enquiry to be made respecting Wm. Deane.

I am now to inform you, that orders are given to have his discharge made out and I wish he may prove a consolation to his Parent; with great regard I am etc.[16]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Dr Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 23 and 27 instant.

It seems strange that such a number of Marine Prisoners should be sent on without any provision being made for their subsistence on the way. I will mention the circumstance to Mr.

[14] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[15] Smith's letter, dated from Newark, N. J., is in the *Washington Papers*.
[16] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Morris, and will immediately give directions to the Contractors to provide against such exigencies, so far as regards your Post.

The Letters for New York are returned and may be forwarded; the Official Letters of Mr. Morris or the Comy of Naval Prisoners need not be sent here in future. I am &c.[17]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Tuesday, January 28, 1783.

Parole Theatre. Countersigns Venango, Wyoming.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Comdr. Barber.

For duty tomorrow the 8th Massachusetts regiment.

At the General court martial of which Colonel Micheal Jackson is president, Joseph Cowell, David Shea, Thomas Jenks, John Blake, Robert Creaton, Nathan Curtis, James Urann, Abraham Cook, Samuel Woods and Noah Goodrich, soldiers in the Light Infantry Company of the 1st Massachusetts regiment, were tryed: charged with killing a Cow on the night of the tenth, stealing Fowls about the 16th. and stealing eleven Geese on the night of the 24th. of December last.

The Court on consideration are of opinion, that, that part of the charge against the prisoners respecting the Cow, and fowles, is not supported; that the prisoners are each of them guilty of the other part of the charge against them in breach of Article the 5th. section the 18th. of the rules and articles of war; and sentence Urann, Cowell and Shea to receive one hundred lashes each; and each of the other prisoners, seventy five Lashes on their naked backs; and that the whole of them be put under equal Stoppages in their pay till the sum of fifteen dollars be

[17] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

stoped in the whole, to be paid to Mr. Jonas Williams to make good his loss and damage.

At the same court, James Keter of the 3d. Massachusetts regiment was tried for Desertion: found guilty in breach of article 1st. section 6th. of the rules and artcs. of war and sentenced to receive One hundred lashes on his naked back.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing sentences.

AFTER ORDERS

The first Newyork regiment will march on thursday next for the relief of the 7th. Massachusetts regimt. on the lines.

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, January 28, 1783.

Gentlemen: It has happened that Prisoners of War passing to or from New York arrive at the Post of Dobbs ferry and for want of a Commissary there, are greatly distressed for Provision; an instance of this kind now exists: upwards of Sixty Prisoners have been sent there by Mr. Morris to go to New York; they have wanted Provision on the road and on their arrival at Dobbs ferry could meet no supply and should they not go in immediately, their distress must greatly increase; such instances may frequently happen. I must therefore desire that some measures may be fallen upon to remedy so great an inconvenience. I am &c.[18]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your favor of the 20th inst. enclosing the Copy of a Letter to the Pay Mastr General; the subject of

[18] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

yours has been communicated to Mr Flint[19] principal Agt for the Contractors with the Army, who assures me there is no doubt every facility will be given by them to the circulation of the Notes in contemplation to be issued. With sentiments of Esteem etc.[20]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, January 29, 1783.

Parole Amboy. Countersigns Burdenton, Castleton.

For the day tomorrow Major Scott.

For duty the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

Major Generals Baron Steuben and Duportail, Colonels Humpton and Laumoy, Majors Villefranche, Clarkson and McPherson. and Captain L'Enfant, or such of them as can be assembled will compose a board of officers to examine into and report on the Claim of Captain Segond to be admitted into the Legion Commanded by Colonel Armand. Major General Steuben will preside and will appoint the time and place of meeting; Colonel Armand and Captain Segond will attend to give the Board the necessary information on the subject.

Thursday the 6th. of February being the anniversary of the Alliance with france, a feu de joye will be fired on that day in celebration of this auspicious Event, by the troops of the Cantonment; previous to which they will be reviewed by the Commander in chief on their parades. The regiments to be under arms presisely at one o'clock. The Adjutant Genl. will give instructions respecting the subsequent dispositions; and the Commandant of Artillery will order a sufficient number of Cartridges without ball to be issued for the occasion.

After the feu de joye the General will be happy to see not only all the officers of the Cantonments, but all the Gentlemen

[19] Royal Flint.

[20] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

of the Army and other Gentlemen and Ladies who can attend with convenience at the Newbuilding,[21] where a cold Collation will be provided.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

My dear Sir: On the 18th of Decr. I wrote a long Letter, advising you very fully of the state of affairs in this part of the Continent; since that time I have had the pleasure to receive your three favors of the 6th 10th and 19th of the same Month. I scarcely need assure you that the intelligence communicated in your last of the liberation of the southern States from the power of the Enemy, has afforded us infinite satisfaction, and that the event must be attended with very interesting consequences, whatever the future intentions of the British Cabinet may be; permit me to felicitate you sincerely on your agency in producing it and to request you will make known to the Officers and Soldiers of your Army, my entire approbation of their conduct; the inclosed Orders which I have caused to be published to this Army, will be a permanent testimony of my sentiments and feelings on the occasion.

Convinced that your knowledge of the Country and military judgment would dictate with propriety what number of Troops ought to be continued at present with the southern States. It was my intention in the Letter of the 23d of Septr. and those

[21] The New Building was at New Windsor, at which the Army was cantoned, and which was about 3 miles from Newburgh. It stood on a slight elevation and was a one-story frame structure, erected by the troops, and "handsomely finished, with a spacious hall, sufficient to contain a brigade of troops on Lord's days, for public worship, with an orchestre at one end. On top was a cupola and a flag-staff." It was also called the "Temple" and the "Public Building," and was used for general assemblage purposes. The estimate for the building shows "5120 feet of timber; 3000 laths, 4 ft. long, 1 in. thick, 2½ inches wide; 21,000 shingles, well shaved, 8 × 4 inches in size; 1000 split ribs, 8½ ft long, 2½ in. wide at the top." Stones for the chimneys, underpinning, etc., were collected from the field. The building was to be finished in 15 days.

of a subsequent date to submit the matter almost entirely to your discretion. I have now to approve of the arrangements which you have made; especially, as in the present unsettled state of affairs, The detention of the Corps mentioned in your Letter of the 10th of Decr. may be of utility there, and will not be attended with any ill consequences elsewhere; but I think it essential to acquaint you, that in case the War should continue, the Post of New York be held by the Enemy, and offensive operations be attempted against it, we shall stand in need of the whole regular force that can be collected from all the States northward of the Carolinas; upon a presumption that these things may happen, I shall wish you to put in motion all the Troops above alluded to (except the Virginia Regt of Horse and the Legion) as soon as you shall judge the tranquility of Georgia and the Carolinas is sufficiently restored to admit of their being withdrawn; for as to our being able totally to prevent the desultory and predatory incursions of the Enemy (if they should have a disposition to exert themselves in that way) I do not think our whole Army competent to the object. I conceive, however, that Cavalry are much preferable for such services than Infantry, and it is for this reason, I shall not object to your retaining the two Corps before specified, so long as there may be occasion for them.

Unacquainted as I am, with the particular local situation of Charles Town, I cannot undertake to give a decisive opinion with respect to the fortifications proper for that place, but so far as I am able to form a judgment at this distance, I am induced from the reasons you give, as well as from my general knowledge of it, to accord fully in sentiment with you, on the subject.

I am very anxious to see the King of Great Britains speech to his Parliament, with the consequent Debates and Determinations, as I imagine we shall be able from these to form a better

judgment respecting War or Peace than from any thing we have hitherto seen; indeed the Commission, enabling Mr. Oswald to treat with us, as "the United States of America" kindles a brighter ray of hope than any which has hitherto shone upon us, and altho it should not light us so soon as some fondly imagine to the wished for period of all our toils and all our dangers, yet it will remain like a fixed luminary by which to steer our future course to the harbours of Peace and Independence.

There is nothing besides of news since I wrote you last, except the death of my Lord Stirling which happened at Albany on the 14th inst. and the promotion of Colonels Greaton, Putnam and Dayton to the Rank of Brigadiers. I am etc.[22]

*To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

dear Sir: As I never saw, nor never heard of the resolve of Congress spoken of the Secretary at War (as mentioned in your letter of the 21st Instt.) and conceive it a right inherent, with Command to limit (as circumstances and the nature of Service may require) the proportion of Women to the Men of an Army I confess I felt myself hurt by the interference of other departments without any previous notice or communication of sentiments with me on the Subject.

The import of the regulation of the Secy at W; and yourself, by fair deduction is, that an abuse existed, which required correction; by limiting the number of Rations for Women to a fifteenth of the Issues to Non-Commissioned Officers and privates; when the fact is, that from calculation the new mode has

[22] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

added 52,560 Rations to the annual expence of the Army in this Quarter, as will appear by the inclosed Official return; and would if the strict letter had been adhered to, have involved particular Corps in great distress.

It will appear, by having recurrence to my Orderly Book, that an Oeconomical attention to the public interest, in this case, has not been wanting; but that upon every return of the number of Women called for (at different periods) when compared with the totality of the Army, it has been found, that no general Rule consistent with American, or British Customs, could be established that would not encrease the agregate amount of the Issues and therefore that it was better to submit to a surplusage in some Corps than to render the expence greater and the evil more extensive by adopting a limitation whh. would pervade the whole Army. especially too, as some of those Corps were, and still are, under particular circumstances. for instance the Regiments of York, which, in part, are composed of Long Islanders and others who fled with their families when the enemy obtained possession of those places and have no other means of Subsistence. The Cries of these Women; the sufferings of their Children, and the complaints of the Husbands would admit of no alternative. The latter with too much justice remarked "If *pay* is with-held from *us,* and *Provisions* from our *Wives* and *Children* we must all starve together; or commit Acts which may involve us in ruin." Our Wives add they "could earn their Rations, but the Soldier, nay the Officer, for whom they Wash has naught to pay them." In a word. I was obliged to give Provisions to the extra Women in these Regiments, or loose by Desertion, perhaps to the Enemy, some of the oldest and best Soldiers in the Service. To suspend the publication of this allowe I could not because it was linked into and became part of a Plan which was to have an operation in a few days: to wit before the first of this Month.

You will, My dear Sir, consider this as a free, friendly, and confidential communication. I early assured you, and more than once, with great sincerity have repeated it, that you will find the best disposition in me to support your Administration and to give efficacy to your plans of œconomy as far as they came within my sphere of action. If therefore you perceive, or think you perceive any defect in the Police of the Army and will suggest a remedy, I pledge myself to you that I shall receive the information, and hints, as a test of your friendship; and will, as far as my judgment and powers extend endeavor to correct it. But if from misconception, mis-information, or a partial investigation, the interior of my business is taken up by others at the distance of 150 Miles, it is easy to conceive the confusion and bad consequences which must ensue.

Any Assistance or advice, which I can give to the Assistant Comy of Marine Prisoners at Dobbs's Ferry will be afforded with Pleasure. Under the regulations wch. I have established the imposition which you seem to apprehend, namely, applying money to Mercantile purposes under the ostensible pretext and appearance of supporting the Prisoners, cannot be practiced, unless it is connived at by the Executive of the State from whence it comes; because it is a positive and standing order at that Post, when *alone* Flags are permitted, to suffer no Person to go in, send in, or have communication with any person on the Lines who is not vested with proper authority therefor, from Congress, the Executive of the State in which the applicant lives, the Secretary at War, yourself, or Head Qrs. of the Army. That a corrispondence is held with the Enemy through other Channels, I have not the smallest doubt; nor will five such Armies as I command prevent it, unless the States will make it Felony and execute the Laws with fidelity and strictness on Offenders, without respect to Persons. With great esteem etc.

*To ROBERT ADAM

Newburgh, January 27 [-30], 1783.

Dear Sir: I embrace this first oppertunity to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th. from Philadelphia.

Your meeting with the smallest delay in receiving payment for the Land purchased of Messrs. Dow and Co. gives me pain. I receive no earthly advantage from it. I have been paying interest for the Money near two Months and one of these I have had it in my own desk.

Had Mr. Lund Washington, in *explicit* terms, informed me, that the money, by agreement, was to have been paid in Philadelphia, and given me the name of the Person with whom you had lodged a power to receive and acquit me of it; I should most assuredly, have sent it there. But my deposite of it (previously to your arrival), and your enquiries for it afterwards must have been equally vague and uncertain, it appeared to me therefore that a hazard was to be incurred on my part by such a line of conduct without an adequate advantage on yours because not knowing who your corrispondents were I had no certain means of communicating the necessary information. All that I could do under these circumstances, I did, which was to request Mr. Morris (in a Letter of the 8th. Inst.) if he was acquainted with and saw you in Philadelphia, and could make it convenient to pay £1880 Virga. Curry. at that place and receive the like Sum here, to take up the Bills and draw on me for the amount. What has been done in consequence of it I know not, having heard nothing from that Gentleman since. I therefore send the aforesaid Sum of £1880 by Jno. Trumbull Esqr. who will take up my Bills with proper receipts on them.

This candid, and just state of matters will, I hope, be received as an apology for the disappointment you have met with,

which under a want of proper information was scarcely to be avoided on my part.

I am very sorry to hear of the death of my old acquaintance and friend Doctr. Rumney. He has paid the debt which we all owe, and sooner or later shall be called upon to discharge. I am etc.

30th Jan: P. S. I was upon the point of sending off this Letter and the money when your 2d letter of the 21st. arrived and am happy to hear that matters are adjusted So much to your satisfaction.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 30, 1783.

Sir: I should not have undertaken at this time to Address myself, through Your Excellency, to Congress, on the present state of our Military and Political Affairs (which are so blended as scarcely to admit of seperation in the discussion) did I not apprehend my silence might perhaps be construed into remissness of my Official duties, or inattention to the public interests; and that some inconveniences might be experienced by the neglect or delay. Influenced by these motives, and an ardent desire to carry the wishes of Congress into effect, I shall hope to be excused, (after suggesting a few things) for entreating to be made acquainted, so far as may be deemed expedient, with their Sentiments and expectations relative to our future Military Operations.

It scarcely need be remarked here, as it is a fact of great notoriety, that the tranquility, leisure, and inactivity of Winter Quarters have ever been considered by all well-informed Warlike Nations, when in a state of Hostility, as the only proper Season for taking into contemplation the probable operations

of the ensuing Campaign, and for making the best arrangements in their power for carrying such projects as were finally determined upon into execution. It was not simply in conformity with this practice, but upon a perfect conviction of the propriety and expediency of it, that, at the close of all my former Campaigns, I have thought myself not only warranted, but impelled by the strongest dictates of reason and duty to exert all my influence and abilities in endeavouring to augment our force, and to make the greatest possible provision in every Department, for enabling us to act with vigor at the opening of the next Campaign: And in thus attempting to perform my duty I derived no small share of satisfaction from a consciousness that I should meet with the approbation and assistance of my Country; at the sametime, being so fully acquainted with the designs of the Enemy on the one hand, and with the inclinations of Congress on the other, that I could not hesitate a moment in my own mind, to decide what general system of measures was proper to be adopted. But as the complexion of our Political and Military Affairs is now entirely changed by the Negociations for Peace which are carrying on in Europe, as Congress have determined by the reduction which has lately taken place that the number of Men engaged on the present Establishments are adequate to the Services before us, and as that Honble. Body have much better opportunities than any Individual can have, for collecting and comparing the intelligence necessary to judge with a degree of certainty whether Peace will be concluded in the course of the Winter so as to supercede the necessity of any farther Military preparations; I could not think myself at liberty (without having recourse to their Sentiments) to take the same measures, and give the same Orders, I had on all former occasions deemed myself competent to; on the contrary, I feared to delay any longer to express

my apprehensions, that very fair oppertunities might be lost, and that very great if not irrepairable injuries might be experienced, (if the War should be continued, especially if it should begin to rage again), in case we should not also on our part be in a state of preparation for such an event.

In addition to every other consideration of a Foreign, a Military, or Political nature, the embarrassed State of our Finances, the necessity of using the strictest œconomy, and preventing every unnecessary expenditure of public money in conducting our Military Affairs; have, in an especial manner, prompted me to make this representation; that the Sovereign power may determine what is the proper line of conduct to be pursued, under our present circumstances, whether any or what preparations ought to be made during the Winter, and what our situation will be at the period proper for opening the Campaign (supposing the War should continue and require any offensive operations on our part) unless many of the *essential Articles* which are wanting, particularly in the Quarter Masters Department, should in the meantime be effectually and fully supplied. Amongst the most indispensable and yet most expensive of which I beg leave to mention the means of Transportation, viz Horses for Artillery, Teams and Wheel Carriages for Ordnance, Stores, and Baggage; without which, it is well known an Army becomes totally helpless and totally harmless; for so far from being able to annoy and operate against its Enemy, it is neither able to take the Field, to advance or retire a single step, let the occasions or prospects be of a Nature ever so pressing and important.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing observations, I hope it will be clearly understood, that it is very far from being my Wish or desire that our Military preparations should be increased in the smallest degree beyond what the exigence of the

Circumstances may appear to demand. But while I candidly confess that I believe there is no Man who more earnestly wishes a speedy period may be put to the contest, than myself; I must take the liberty to suggest whether (in case a Peace shd. not take place in consequence of the present Negotiations) it would not be far more eligible in point of National policy and Oeconomy to attempt by one great and decisive effort to expel the Enemy from the remaining part of their possessions in the United States, than to suffer them with their enfeebled force to hold a Post and protract the War, untill the accumulating expences of our languid and defensive measures only, shall amount to such an agregate sum as would have furnished the means for attempting the Siege of New York with a prospect of success.

In order that your Excellency and Congress may have as comprehensive and compleat a view of our efficient force, our Military apparatus, and the principal Articles which would be required for a vigorous Campaign I have thought it expedient to forward the Inclosed returns and Estimates (the Estimate of the Engineers is omitted because the Articles in his Department will be principally provided by the labors of the Army) and I flatter myself it will be found that the Troops under my Orders are at this moment as much collected, and as well appointed as could possibly be expected under our circumstances, and that all the means which have been afforded, so far as depended upon Military arrangements, have been œconomised in the most prudent manner. I shall wait with great solicitude to hear the Sentiments, expectations and final pleasure of Congress, on the several points contained in this Letter. And in the meantime I have the honor &c.

PS. I have directed the Troops of Pensyla., Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, except the Legionary Corps, to be

comprehended in the Qr. Masters Estimate, as they would undoubtedly be employed with this Army in case of any serious operation.[23]

*To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Newburgh, January 30, 1783.

Sir: The last Post brought me your letter of the 10th. Instt., and a former one handed me a line from Mr. Lund Washington informing me of your application for the Bonds, and other Securities taken at the Sale of Colo. Mercer's Estate; and of his suspending the delivery of them 'till he could hear from me. His reasons for so doing, I *suppose,* for I can suggest no others, were, not having heard from the Attorney Genl. (to whose care he knew I had committed this business) on the Subject. and because he had received no Official notice of your having complied with the proviso in the Decretal order.

By the returning Post, I desired him to give up the Bonds and other Securities; and Money if he had any; together with a list of such Bonds as had been discharged, and his disposition of the Money agreeably to the Order of the Court: And moreover, to allow you to take copies of any Papers in my possession relative to this business; But, as the Accounts and memorandums had been reduced to Specialties, and the Decree did not require them of me, I directed him not to part with these; lest, eventually, I might find occasion for them hereafter to elucidate any part of my transaction of this business.

As I have no doubt of your being possessed of the Papers ere this, I have only to add, that Thirteen hundred and Ninety two

[23] Indorsed by Charles Thomson "Secret. Read Feby 11, 1783. Referred to Mr [Alexander] Hamilton Mr [Richard] Peters Mr [Theodorick] Bland Mr [John] Rutledge Mr [Thomas] Mifflin The returns as well as the Contents of the letter to be kept secret." The returns are not with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress.* (See *Journals of the Continental Congress,* Feb. 20, 1783.)

Dollars in Bills upon France, were exchanged at 35 for one by the advice of your Brother James Mercer Esqr. and the produce of them placed in the Loan Office of Virginia. this money was sent to me by Mr. Lund Washington at the request of your Brother. This is the only money that ever came into my hands, except a few shillings at the Sale, for trifles. My respects and best wishes are offered to your Brother. I am etc. [H.L.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Thursday, January 30, 1783.

Parole Denbeigh. Countersigns Exeter, Faulkland.
For the day tomorrow Major Oliver.
For duty the Maryland Detachment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, January 31, 1783.

Parole Germany. Countersigns Hannover, Japan.
For the day tomorrow Lt. Col. J. Millen.
For duty the first Jersey regiment.

The Quarter Master General has fixed on three markett places to which Provisions of all kinds intended for sale to the troops are to be brought. One in the front of the interval between the New Jersey and Newyork brigades, one in front of the interval between the first and third Massachusetts Brigades, and one in the rear of the hospital hutts, by the road that runs between those Hutts and the Hutts of the 2d. Massachusetts brigade.

A return of the number of Cartridges wanted to compleat the men of each regiment in this Cantonment, that will probably

be under arms on thursday next to three rounds per man to be given in tomorrow at Orderly time.

A subaltern officer is daily to *superintend* each Market place established in the orders of this day. They will be furnished, in the following manner; the Maryland, Jersey, York, and Hampshire regiments in rotation, begining on the right that between the York and Jersey Lines, the first and third Massachusetts brigades, regimentally from right to left, that in the interval between those brigades, and the 2d. Brigade in the same manner, that between the hospital hutts and those of said brigade.

The officers on this duty will find their Instructions in the orders of the 24th. instant.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, February 1, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am to desire that you will take the earliest Opportunity to furnish me with an Estimate of every thing in the Ordnance and Artillery Department which will be necessary to carry on an Offensive and vigorous Campaign; considering the Siege of New York as a probable Operation, this Estimate to be on the same principles as those of 80 and 81; Noting such of the Articles as are already in our possession or within our reach, to shew what is to be procured by ways and means yet to be devised. I am &c.[24] [MS. H. S.]

To WILLIAM DUER

Head Quarers, Newburgh, February 1, 1783.

Sir: The Severity of the Climate, and of the duty of the Troops, [particularly when they are Scouting] at the Out Posts

[24] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

on the Mohawk River, renders it absolutely necessary that they should some times be supplied with a little Spirits. I must therefore desire you, without delay, to procure for them two or three Hogsheads of Rum or other Spirits, subject to the orders of Colonel Willet.

If in doing this any additional expence is incurred which is not warranted by the Contract, it must be paid rather than the Troops should Suffer. It has some how been omitted to make provision for the Subsistence of the Officers of Colonel Willet's Regiment 'till the Secy at War's directions can be had, they must be supplied with Provisions to the Amount of the subsistence allowed their respective ranks. I am &c.[25]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, February 1, 1783.

Parole, Kingston. Countersigns Lancaster, Manchester.
For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs.
For duty the 2d. Jersey regiment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, February 2, 1783.

Parole Northcastle. Countersigns Onondago, Pompton.
For the day tomorrow Major Knap.
For duty the 2d. York regiment.

A sub, sergt, corpl, and 15 privates from the regimt. which gives the details for duty to march tomorrow morning to Westpoint, to receive the prisoners belonging to the corps in this

[25] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

On February 1 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. Moses Hazen that he would be notified of the time of proceedings in the trial of the Judge Advocate, with permission to attend. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Cantonment confined there, and conduct them to the New provost. The officer commanding the party will apply to the Fort major at Westpoint for the prisoners, and report to the Adjutant Genl. on his return that a relief may be ordered for him. Commanding officers of brigades are requested to send to Westpoint on tuesday next for their proportions of Blank cartridges agreably to the returns given in yesterday an abstract of which will be sent to General Knox.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL RUFUS PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 2, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Hobby having claimed as his property a Negro Man now serving as a soldier in the 3d Masstts Regt. you will be pleased to order a Court of Enquiry, consisting of five as respectable Officers as can be appointed in your Brigade, to examine into the validity of the claim, the manner in which the person in question came into service, and the propriety of his being discharged or retained in service, having inquired into the matter with all the attending circumstances, they will report to you their opinion thereon, which you will communicate to me as soon as conveniently may be. I am etc.

P. S. All concerned should be notified to attend.[26]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Newburgh, February 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 28th ulto From Fort Renselaer, and 30th from Albany both came to my hands last Night.

One hundred and fifty Blankets (all that are in the Clothiers Store at this place) and twenty five Axes are now packing to

[26] In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in Marietta College, Ohio.

be sent to you; and the Qr Master Genl will endeavor, if possible, to have them at Albany on the 4th.; from whence you must take measures to get them to Fort Herkimer in time. If any of Olneys Men (on the Enterprise you are going) should be in greater need than yours, they must be supplied out of this parcel, that the whole may be as comfortable as it is in my power to make them.

I do not send Medicines, Bandages and Instruments because it would take some time to procure them, and not a moment is to be lost in dispatching the Sleighs with the Blankets, that they may arrive in time; and because (tho' I wish you not to be unprovided) it is to be remembered, and I wish to impress it upon you, that, if you do not succeed by Surprise the attempt will be unwarrantable. The Wounds received in the former, more than probable, will be trifling.

Every plausible deception should be used to mask the object of your Expedition to the latest moment. Your movements afterwards should be quick, and pains must be taken to discover, by tracts or otherwise, whether intelligence has out gone you. If you should be fully convinced of this, the further prosecution of the Enterprise would not only be fruitless, but might prove injurious.

To an Officer of your care, attention and foresight, I shall not dwell upon circumspection and caution. The consequence of a Surprize (not only to the party you command, but to your own reputation) is too serious and self evident, to stand in need of illustration. A Vast deal depends upon having good Guides to Oswego; and every thing, in a manner, upon persons who can carry you without hesitation or difficulty, to the points of Attack when you arrive there. How far a few Indians would be useful to you for the first purpose; and how far they are to be confided in, you, from a better knowledge of them than I possess, must judge and act accordingly.

Guides who are pressed into the Service must be well secured, lest they desert from you in a critical moment.

From having recourse to the Almanack I am led to Wish that the Night for the Attack may not be delayed beyond the 12th Instt.; as I find that the sitting of the Moon (even at that time) approaches so near day light, that the intervening space is short; and consequently must be very critical; as accidents unforseen, and consequently unprovided for, may embarrass your movements towards the Works and retard the Attack of them beyond the hour designed, to the entire disappointment of the plan. Let me caution you therefore against being too exact in your allowance of time for your last Movement; reflect that you can always waste time, but never recover it. Halts, or slow Marching will accomplish the first, but nothing can effect the latter, consequently in such an Enterprise as yours want of time will be a certain defeat.

Let your disposition be such, that in any circumstances your retreat to your Sleigh, and afterwards with them, may be secure.

If success should crown your endeavors, let your first object be to secure your Prisoners, whom you will treat with lenity and kindness; suffering no Insult or abuse to be offered to them with impunity. Your next object must be to destroy the Works, Vessels (if any should be found there), and every thing else that cannot be brought away. Such Works as cannot be consumed by Fire, nor easily razed by the labor of the Soldiers, must be, if practicable, blown up. In a Word they are to be effectually demolished, if it is within the Compass of your power to do it.

Whatever is found in, or about the Works belonging to the Enemy, and is agreeable to the Rules and Customs of War, humanity and generosity; shall be given to the Party as the

reward of their Gallantry and fatigue; to be distributed in proportion to their pay; the drivers of Sleighs, if Countrymen, should receive a part as an extra encouragement for their Services.

Make me the earliest report (if successful from the Scene of Action, at any rate on your return) of your progress, and the Issue of the Expedition. The Inclosed Letter will shew you what I have done respecting Spirits and Subsistence for your Officers. Seal it before delivery, and make your own arrangements with the Contractor. I begin to doubt the practicability of my being up. My sentiments however you are possessed of, as well as all the Aid I can give. Your own judgment must govern where my Instructions are deficient. I heartily wish you honor and success, and am etc.[27] [M.L.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, February 3, 1783.

Parole Quintal. Countersigns Richmond, Salem.
For the day tomorrow Colonel H. Jackson.
For duty the 1st Hampshire regiment.

To MAJOR WILLIAM BARBER

Head Quarters, February 3, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief will have occasion immediately for duplicate abstracts of the Musters of the *Whole Army,* made out from the last Rolls in your possession, exhibiting accurately, the total numbers borne thereon, and the different

[27] An impress warrant, dated February 2, empowering Willett to impress from the inhabitants such a number of sleighs and horses as may be requisite was inclosed by Washington in a brief note dated February 13. The originals of both the warrant and note are in the Morgan Library.

terms of service for which all the Men are engaged, in such a manner as that the whole may be seen at a single glance. I am etc.[28]

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 29 January inclosing Copy of Maj Villefranches Memorial to Congress.

The Testimonials already in the possession of Maj Villefranche will shew the very high opinion I entertain of his merit and services. His Memorial meets my approbation and if Congress should think proper to comply with it the circumstance will afford me pleasure. I am &c.[29]

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, February 4, 1783.

Parole Turkey. Countersigns Varsailles, Warwick.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonl Newhall.

For duty the 2d. Hampshire regiment.

The troops are to be under arms for review on thursday exactly at 12 o'clock instead of one as was directed in the orders of the 29th. Ultimo.

The General is happy in having the following honorable testimony to the Character and memory of Major General Lord Sterling recorded in the Annals of the Army.

By the United States in Congress assembled January 28, 1783.

The Commander in Chief having in a letter of the 20, informed Congress of the death of Major General Lord Stirling.

[28] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

[29] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On motion

Resolved, That the President signify to the Commandr. in Chief, in a manner the most respectful to the memory of the late Major General the Earl of Stirling, the sense Congress entertain of the early and meritorius, exertions of that general in the common cause; and of the bravery, perseverance and military talents he possessed; which having fixed their esteem for his character, while living, induce a proportionate regret for the loss of an officer who has rendered such constant and important services to his country.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL RUFUS PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: By the inclosed Letter from Mr Hobby,[30] it appears that he wishes to suggest some new Matters which he supposes would operate in procuring a Discharge for the Negro Man claimed by him. Whereupon, His Excellency the Commander in Chief is pleased to direct, that you will cause the Proceedings to be revised by the same Court, in order that they may be enabled to take into consideration any additional circumstances or reasons which may be exhibited by the Claimant and report thereon. I have the honor etc.[31]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I have the honour to acknowledge the recpt. of your Letter of the 28th January, inclosing one thousand Dollars (in Notes) for Colo. Varick, whose receipt shall be obtained and transmitted agreeably to your desire.

I cannot omit mentioning, that the Officer of the detachment sent from Phila. with Marine Prisoners, Reports, that no

[30] Capt. Jonathan Hobby, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment.

[31] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

arrangement having been made for their subsistence on the Road, both Guard and Prisoners were in the most distressed situation for want of Provisions. With great regard etc.[32]

To JONATHAN ARNOLD[33]

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received the Letter you was pleased to address to me on the 28th of Janry.[34]

I beg you will be persuaded, Sir, that I have not accustomed myself to form opinions upon partial representations, or reports of any kind whatever, until the characters concerned have had an opportunity of contradicting and refuting them; it was not because I gave implicit credence to that part of Capt Macomber's report which affected your reputation, that I enclosed it without alteration to the President of Congress; but because it came into my hands [from the Officer Commandg in the Northern Departm.] Officially, and I thought your own reputation and my duty required, that I should Act in the matter, as I have done.

You may be assured, Sir, that No apology was necessary for your application, and that I am etc.[35]

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, February 4, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 29th. January.

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[32] The text is from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

[33] Rhode Island Delegate to Congress.

[34] Arnold had written (January 28): "The peculiarly delicate situation in which I am placed by the said report, will I hope render an Apology for this, and such further Applications as I shall be necessitated to make, in developing this at present dark and mysterious affair, unnecessary." Arnold's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[35] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

Since I had the honor to write the late President, respecting the Enemys having put a stop to the incursions of the Savages, I have received no intelligence but what had seemed to confirm the declarations the Enemy then made how long they will continue this inoffensive System or what may be their designs for next Spring, it is impossible for me to say; it is however best to be prepared for the worst. I am &c.[36]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: A few days since, I recd your favor of the 25th. of January. There is such an absolute dearth of News here, that I cannot undertake to give you a single syllable in return for what you was so good as to send me.

Without amusements or avocations, I am spending another Winter (I hope it will be the last that I shall be kept from returning to domestic life) amongst these rugged and dreary Mountains. I have however the satisfaction of seeing the Troops better coverd, better Clothed and better fed, than they have ever been in any former Winter Quarters. And this circumstance alone would make any situation tolerable to me. In a little time I hope to turn their duty into an Amusement, by awakening again the spirit of Emulation and love of Military Parade and glory, which was so conspicuous the last Campaign. I shall (as soon as the Weather will permit in the Spring) expect to see the General Officers daily on Horseback at the Head of their Commands, teaching them by precept and example, every thing that is reputable and glorious in the profession of Arms; let me hint in Season, I presume you will not chuse to be absent, or second in exertion on these occasions, to any of your brother Officers.

[36] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

In the mean time I shall strive to while away this Season, in laying a foundation for those things. Tomorrow being the Anniversary of the Alliance with France we shall have a Military Exhibition. There will be a Review and fue de joie and afterwards a Cold Collation at the new Public Building. With great regard etc.[37] [MS. H. S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your Letter of the 13th of January and have written to Governor Harrison that it was much to be wished, the Obstacles mentioned by you might be removed, and that measures might be taken during the Winter, for forming the Troops now in the State with the Detachment, which I imagined would be sent back by General Green from So Carolina, into a compleat Regt or Regts, in such a manner as that they might be properly appointed and fit for service at the opening of the next Campaign. I doubt not you will contribute your utmost exertions towards accomplishing so interesting and desirable an object. With great regard etc.[38]

*To BRYAN FAIRFAX

Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter begun on the 26th. of Decr. and finished the 8th. of Jany. came to my hands by the last Post. The Inclosures for Lord Fairfax and your Brother I have put under cover to Sir Guy Carleton who will I am perswaded send them in the Packet for England. I have only to add on this subject that you

[37] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[38] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

need not at any time hesitate at, or apologize for sending Letters of friendship or on business through my hands into New York; as I shall always have pleasure in being the medium of conveyance. and if Lord Fairfax and your Brother would adopt the same mode, nothing but the danger of the Seas, and risque of capture, would impede their passage to, and from you.

I scarce know what opinion to be of respecting the application of Doctr. Savage;[39] because in the first place we have no certainty of his Wifes death. Secondly because we do not (admitting the fact) know how she may have disposed of her Estate; and how far her support while living depended upon the credit of the Annuity. In a word how far it has been anticipated by Loans, which are charged on it. Mr. Randolph,[40] the Attorney General, if the Papers are in his hands will be best able to decide the point upon a principle of Law and equal justice to all parties and to this Issue I would wish to leave the matter.

I have no occasion of the Letters from Mrs. Savage; but wish if there are any other Papers in my possession, at Mount Vernon, that are necessary to, or can through [*sic*] any light upon this business that you would apply to Mr. Lund Washington for and make such use of them as the nature of the case may require.

At present, we are fast locked in Frost and Snow; without a title of News. We look wisfully to the East, and to the South for an Arrival; supposing the first European Vessel will bring the Speech of the British King, the Addresses, and debates thereupon; the last of which I expect, will discover the Ultimatum of the National determination respecting the continuance of the War, or acceptance of Peace upon such terms as the Negociations for it have been able to strike out. If happily for

[39] See vols. 2 and 3, *ante*, for the Savage matter.
[40] Edmund Randolph, Attorney General of Virginia.

all parties, the last should be the choice, it would give me much pleasure to assure you personally, of the unimpaired friendship of Dr. Sir, etc.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Sir: By a Letter I have lately recv'd from Brigadier General Mulenberg, I find he has reported the proceedings respecting Captain Fox to your Excellency, and requested your farther directions. I am also informed by that General Officer, that there are two obstacles which still greatly oppose and retard the success of collecting your Recruits, viz the want of Provisions to support and carry them to the place of general Rendezvous; and the want of efficacious means for apprehending Deserters. It is very much to be wished that these difficulties might be removed, and that measures might be taken during the Winter, for forming the Troops now in the State, with the Detachment which I imagine will be sent back by General Greene from So. Carolina, into a compleat Regiment or Regiments in such a manner as that they may be properly appointed and fit for Service before the Opening of the next Campaign. I have the honor etc.[41] [V.S.L.]

To THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, February 5, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 27th. of January is received.

In answer to that part of your Letter of the 15 January, which respects the appointment of a Brigadier for the State of Connecticut I am to observe that when the Secretary at War was at Verplanks point last fall it was agreed to be the best plan for

[41] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

future Promotions to divide the Continent into districts and when a Vacancy happened for a General Officer the oldest Officer in the district should fill it. All the New England States compose one district, in which Massachusetts has three Brigades Connecticut one, and the Troops of New Hampshire and Rhode Island may after their reduction compose another; the four former Brigades have their Brigadiers and if General Stark is to remain in Service, he will undoubtedly claim the latter, in that case there is no Vacancy; but should General Stark from ill health, or any of the causes which have kept him so long at home, be unable to continue, his retiring will make a Vacancy for Colonel Swift, who is the oldest Colonel in the District; Colonel Swift is a very deserving Officer and would do honor to the appointment.

As you may not have been able to collect from my Letter to General Green so full an account of the disposition of his Troops as you wish I am now to inform you that it is proposed to retain to the southard for the present, the Virginia Cavalry and Lees Legion; One compleat Regiment of Maryland and one of Pensilvania; the remainder of the Infantry Northward of the Carolina's are to be sent to their respective States to recruit. I am &c.[42]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, February 5, 1783.

Parole Albemarle. Countersigns Bedford, Cambden.

For the day tomorrow Colonel J. Vose.

For duty the first Massa. regiment.

The principal objects of the Commander in chief for collecting the Army together in this Cantonment of repose for the winter, were to keep alive the spirit of emulation amongst the

[42] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

different corps, to give an oppertunity for confirming the habits of Decipline which had been acquired the last Campaign; and improving the internal police of each to the highest degree of perfection. Altho the severity of the season may not for some time admit of the troops being drawn out for exercise and Manœvring yet the gratest attention might, and should in the mean time be paid to the establishment of perfect regularity, œconomy and good order, throughout the line of the whole army. As soon as the snow shall be gone, and the weather will suffer it, the General hopes he need not have occasion to prompt the Generals and officers commanding Brigades and regiments, to commence the daily exercises, in the same manner they were practiced the last year: as a necessary prepiration for which he recommends that proper ground for Manœvring should be fixed upon by them as soon as may be, that the stumps (if there are any) should be cut level with the surface of the Earth, and that every other obstacle should be seasonably removed.

The troops are to be served with a gill of Rum per man after the feu de joie, which the regimental Quarter Masters will have ready to distribute on their arrival at their respective Cantonments.

After having furnished the ordinary Guards, the remainder of the regiments ordered for duty tomorrow will form, and join in the exercise of the day.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Thursday, February 6, 1783.

Parole America and France. Countersigns United, forever.

For the day tomorrow Major Pettingill.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in chief, who wishes on the return of this auspicious day[43] to diffuse the feeling of gratitude and pleasure as extensively as possible is pleased to grant a full and free pardon to all military prisoners now in confinement; any Non-commissioned officers or privates who may come under this predicament are ordered to be released without delay and join their respective regiments. The General flatters himself this act of grace will have a proper influence on the future conduct of those immediately concerned and that well timed instances of lenity will operate on generous minds more effectually towards establishing a proper system of Decipline (which he is determined shall be invariably maintained) than the severest examples could have done.

*To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Newburgh, February 6, 1783.

My dear Sir: I have the pleasure to inform you that your Packet for Govr. Greene which came inclosed to me (in your private Letter of the 12th. of December) was forwarded in an hour after it came to my hands by a Gentleman returning to Rhode Island (Welcome Arnold Esquire); there can be no doubt therefore of its having got safe to the Governor.

It is with a pleasure which friendship only is susceptible of, I congratulate you on the glorious end you have put to hostilities in the Southern States; the honor and advantage of it, I hope, and trust, you will live long to enjoy. when this hemisphere will be equally free is yet in the womb of time to discover; a little whole, however 'tis presumed, will disclose the determinations of the British Senate with respect to Peace or War as it seems to be agreed on all hands, that the present

[43] Anniversary of signing of the Treaty of Alliance with France.

Premeir (especially if he should find the opposition powerful) intends to submit the decision of these matters to Parliament. The Speech, the Addresses, and Debates for which we are looking in every direction, will give a data from which the bright rays of the one, or the gloomy prospect of the other, may be discovered.

If Historiographers should be hardy enough to fill the page of History with the advantages that have been gained with unequal numbers (on the part of America) in the course of this contest, and attempt to relate the distressing circumstances under which they have been obtained, it is more than probable that Posterity will bestow on their labors the epithet and marks of fiction; for it will not be believed that such a force as Great Britain has employed for eight years in this Country could be baffled in their plan of Subjugating it by numbers infinitely less, composed of Men oftentimes half starved; always in Rags, without pay, and experiencing, at times, every species of distress which human nature is capable of undergoing.

I intended to have wrote you a long letter on sundry matters but Majr. Burnett popped in unexpectedly, at a time when I was preparing for the Celebration of the day; and was just going to a review of the Troops, previous to the Fue de joy. As he is impatient, from an apprehension of the Sleighing failing. and as he can give you the occurrences of this quarter more in detail than I have time to do, I will refer you to him. I cannot omit informing you however, that I let no oppertunity slip to enquire after your Son George[44] at Princeton, and that it is with pleasure I hear he enjoys good health, and is a fine promising boy.

[44] George Washington Greene.

On February 6 Washington wrote to Gates that he was satisfied with the reasons Gates assigned [for his posting Lieutenant Colonels Newhall and Hull to the Fourth and Sixth Massachusetts Regiments, respectively]. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Mrs. Washington joins me in most Affectionate regards, and best wishes for Mrs Greene and yourself. With great truth and sincerity and every sentiment of friendship. I am etc.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, February 6, 1783.

Sir: In a late Excursion of the Militia on the other side under Cap Williams,[45] John Paulding, one of the Persons who took Major André, was made Prisoner with some others. His friends, apprehensive for his safety, have made intercession with the General on his behalf and, tho' His Excellency does not approve the excursions of these people, yet in consideration of the former services Mr. Paulding has rendered the Country, and as we have in the Provost Guard, four Prisoners taken by them some time since. He has been pleased to consent that those four Prisoners be sent in on Parole and you will desire the Enemy to send out on Parole for them the within mentioned Persons.[46] The Prisoners to be sent in will be forwarded from hence tomorrow Morning. I have the honor etc.[47]

To COLONEL MICHAEL JACKSON OR OFFICER COMMANDING EIGHTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: I am excessively sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of informing you that the 8th Masstts. Regt. was one of the

[45] Capt. Daniel Williams, of Dutchess County (N. Y.) militia.

[46] Walker wrote again to Lieutenant Colonel Smith, this same day (February 6), that 6 prisoners would be sent down for parole exchange, instead of 4. Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[47] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

Corps alluded to in the orders of this day, as not having made that elegant appearance at the Review yesterday which was expected. Let me entreat and conjure you, Sir, in the most forcible terms, and let me enjoin it upon both Officers [and Men] that the greatest possible exertions should be made to put the Regt in a more respectable condition before another Review: in order to save me the irksome task of carrying into execution what I have promised in the orders of this day and then the otherwise inevitable disgrace of being held up to public view in a disagreeable manner.

These observations will be understood to apply only to the Battalion Companies; for in justice to the Lt Compy I must say that I thought very few, if any, in the Line made a more soldier-like figure. I am etc.[48]

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

February 7, 1783.

Sir: I return the Certificate respecting Loudon Sawyer.[49]

Of those Men who have neglected to Join or have deserted and may hereafter come in, such only as are fit for duty must be reced, the others can have no claim. I am &c.[50]

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: It gave me very sensible pleasure to observe at the Review yesterday the very great alteration for the better in the appearance of the Maryland Detachment, which had taken place, since

[48] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[49] In Nicola's letter of February 6 this name is given as Lowdon Sayer. The certificate seems to have been to grant him entrance to the Invalid regiment. Nicola's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[50] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

I last saw them under Arms. Be pleased to make known to the Officers and Men the satisfaction I experienced on this occasion; and at the same time to acquaint them, that I anticipate the day, when this Detachment will rival if not surpass in excellence the Oldest and best Troops in the American service.

[I feel as much pleasure in passing this encomium on it as I did pain at writing my former Letter of the 25th. ulto. on the contrary appearance of your Corps &c.] I am etc.[51]

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, February 7, 1783.

Sir: An Order is given for the Regimental Pay Mastrs to apply for their proportion of Blankets.

General Hazen's Regt is to be included in all distributions of Cloathg unless you shall receive particular Orders to the contrary. For upon that General Officer's representing, that there had been an unequal and partial distribution of Cloathg relatively to his Corps and applying to know how the wants of the Regt should be supplied, he was referred by the Commander in chief to your Department with particular directions to make application to you and exhibit the proper Returns; by a comparison of which the Issues made in Philadelphia, His Excellency supposed you would be able to do ample justice to the Corps. I am etc.[52]

To JONATHAN HOBBY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 7, 1783.

Sir: As the Court of Enquiry upon a revisal of their Proceedings are still of opinion that the Negro man claimed by you is

[51] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[52] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

legally holden to serve the term he is inlisted for, and that your only remedy is against the State. The Commander in Chief does not think himself authorized to discharge the Sd Negro, unless another man is obtained by the State, or otherwise, to serve in his room. I am etc.[53]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Friday, February 7, 1783.

Parole Dartmouth. Countersigns Epsom, Philadelphia.

For the day tomorrow Major Morrell.

For duty the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in chief orders it to be signified to the troops of this Cantonment that he was yesterday perfectly satisfied with their appearance in general. He thinks proper however in justice to his own observations and the reputation of those corps which made the most respectable figure, to observe that the distinction hereafter will be publickly noticed unless an alteration shall take place before another Review.

The regimental paymasters are desired to apply at the Cloathers store in Newburgh for a proportion of blanketts.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EZRA NEWHALL OR OFFICER COMMANDING FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 8, 1783.

Sir: I am excessively sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of informing you that the 5th. Masstts Regt was one of the Corps alluded to in the Orders of this day, as not having made that elegant appearance at the Review yesterday, which was expected. Let me entreat and conjure you, Sir, in the most forcible

[53] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

terms and let me enjoin it upon both Officers and men, that the greatest possible exertions should be made to put the Regt in a more respectable condition before another Review: in order to save me the irksome task of carrying into execution what I have promised in the orders of this day, and then the otherwise inevitable disgrace of being held up to public view in a disagreeable manner I am etc.[54]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, February 8, 1783.

Parole Gilead. Countersigns Hartford, Illinois.

For the day tomorrow Major Reading.

For duty the third Massachusetts Regiment.

At the general courtmartial of which Colonel Michael Jackson is president, Ensign Ricker Sedam of the 1st. Jersey regiment, charged with seizing a cow belonging to the husband of Catherine Leggett under pretence of its being designed for the enemy, and afterwards carrying the same Cow below the Lines and selling her there, Was tried. The court on consideration are of opinion that Ensign Ricker Sedam did seize a Cow belonging to the husband of Catherine Leggett and that he sold the same Cow a few rods below the Lines; they are also of Opinion that he had a right to seize the Cow, but he ought to have had her condemned, before he sold her, which was not the case, yet considering all the circumstances attending the transaction they think him excusable.

The Commander in chief approves the opinion of the court and releases Ensign Sedam from Arrest.

At the General courtmartial of which Colonel Zebulon Butler is president, Thomas Stevens a soldier in the 3d. Massachusetts

[54] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

regiment, charged with using insulting Language to Lieutenant Smith of the 6th. Massa. regiment when crossing the river at Westpoint, and afterwards striking Lieutenant Smith[55] several times, was tried. The court on due consideration find Stephens guilty of a breach of part of article 5th. section 2d. of the rules and articles of war, and sentence him to have his honorary Badge taken off at the head of the regiment to which he belongs, and receive one hundred lashes on his naked back.

The Commander in chief approves the sentence of the Court, but remits the infliction of the punishment in consideration of the orders of the 6th instant.

All officers going on Furlough, Command, or any other business which calls them from Camp, are directed to leave orders on the paymaster for their subsistence, during their absence.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, February 9, 1783.

Parole Kendal. Countersigns Lincoln, Montgomery.

For the day tomorrow Major Fish.

For duty the 6th. Massachusetts regiment.

A Board consisting of all the General officers in this Cantonment and at the Garrison of Westpoint to assemble at such place as shall be appointed by Major Genl. Gates on thursday next to take into consideration certain points contained in a memorial of Brigadier Genl. Hasen in behalf of himself and a large majority of the officers of his regiment relative to the proceedings of Courts martial, the duties of a Judge advocate and the conduct of Mr. Edwards the present Judge Advocate; the particular objects of enquiry will be pointed out by the Commander in chief. The parties concerned are directed to

[55] Lieut. Josiah Smith, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

attend and exhibit such Documents and information as shall be thought proper, and the Board are requested to report their opinion thereon as soon as may be.

The inspection and muster of the Troops in this Cantonment will be made for the month of Jany. upon the following days: the first Massachusetts brigade the 12th. instant; Jersey do. 13th; Hampshire do. 14th; 3d Massachusetts do. 15th; 2d. and 8th. Massa. regiments 16th; 5th. Massachusetts regt. 17th; York Brigade 20th.

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, February 10, 1783.

Parole Northampton. Countersigns Oldham, Pompton.

For the day Lt. Colonel Comdt. Barber.

For duty the 2d Massachusetts regiment.

Every time the Commander in chief passes through the line he finds himself very agreably affected with a view of the present comfortable and beautifull situation of the troops; and while he considers it as a just testimony of applause to assert that the hutts in point of convenience, regularity and eligance have equaled, if not surpassed his most sanguine expectations, he wishes the soldiery to be assured that it will be his most earnest studdy and endeavour that health and happiness should bless the Inhabitants of them, for which purpose he thinks proper to give some general directions, which are to be often read and inculcated, and will be considered as standing regulations so long as the troops shall continue in their winter cantonment.

Not only the Parade in front of the Cantonment is to be kept constantly clean and free from Nusances, but also the rear and intermediate space between the hutts to be put and kept in the same condition: to effect this the small brush and rubbish

must be immediately removed to a suitable distance, and either burned, or piled in heaps and reserved for firing, as may be deemed most expedient.

The hutts to be thoroughly swept and cleansed every day under the order and inspection of the officers of Police small poles to be fixed on stakes for airing the blanketts &ca. in the manner now practiced by the 2d. Massachusetts regiment.

The greatest regularity and good order to be observed by the men, as to the mode of cooking their victuals and the time of eating; as well as in the manner of messing and living together.

Strict attention is also to be paid by them to the neatness of their persons, the cleanliness, and preservation of their Cloathing.

Necessaries to be built at proper places, to be sheltered from view and the vaults daily covered with earth as soon as the warm season advances. Fresh straw to be furnished by the Quarter master General, once in two months, if it can be possibly procured, and it is hoped a further supply of Blanketts will soon be received as there has lately been an arrival of that article from Europe; scarcely any thing will then be wanting to render the circumstances as elegeble as those of a Military life can be, except a little *Money,* and that, it is expected will arrive in a short time.

The General cannot conclude this order without reminding the troops of a circumstance which will be remembered to their immortal reputation; that during the whole time the army was encamped the last Campaign on Verplanks point, there never was any filth or trash to be seen on the parade nor any thing offensive to the sight or smell, in the invirons of the encampment but on the contrary there appeared to be an admirable police maintained without the repetition of a single

Order on the subject. Nothing more is now wished or requested than that the same line of Conduct may be rigidly observed in quarters, which was found by experience to be so honorable and salutary in the field.

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 9th covering an application from Brigad. General Putnam for leave of absence until the 15th of April has been handed to me this morning.

I beg you will be pleased, Sir, to inform that Officer I do not consider myself at liberty to comply with his request, for it appears to me (considering the small number of General Officers with the Army, Genl. Howe having also in consequence of a previous promise just before his application obtained leave of absence) that it would be absolutely improper and injurious to service, under the present circumstances to give the permission he sollicits; and that I cannot be answerable for a faithful discharge of the trust reposed in me by my Country, unless a proper number of Officers are constantly retained with the Army to pay that incessant attention to the Police of it, which is indispensably necessary; this, I think, will be sufficient for his satisfaction, without mentioning a consideration which only affects me personally, and that is, the additional and almost insupportable weight of business and trouble which the absence of so many General Officers continues to impose upon me.

But taking the matter in another point of view, and I cannot help expressing my surprize that General Putnam, who has been absent the whole Campaign (for however important and proper the business may have been on which he was employed, the Troops of his Command suffered not the less for the want of his presence) and who has been in Camp but a few Weeks;

should imagine his services could be dispensed with until the 15th of April. If the Law Suit he mentions renders it essential he should be absent about the last of March, it is probable he may be spared from the Army with less inconvenience then, than at present, as some of the Genl Officers now absent will have returned before that time. I am &c.[56] [N.Y.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

February 10, 1783.

Dr Sir: I am favored with your Letter of Yesterday. When you mentiond to me the other day the probability of your Affairs requiring your presence at Boston, I believe I told you that if there was an absolute necessity for it, leave should be granted. It is painful for me to refuse an Officer any[57] Indulgence it is in my power to grant, but something is due to other considerations, the good of service and my own reputation requires me not to suffer the Troops to be left entirely destitute of Officers and you must acknowledge that too great a proportion of the Genl Officers is already absent. Genl Gates and yourself are now the only Major Generals in Camp and Genl Gates has already informed me that Mrs. Gates's health was in such a state when the last letters left her, that it is probable the next Post will inform him of her being in extreme danger, in that case it would be almost impossible to deny him permission to visit her. Of the Six Brigadiers, whose Brigades are on this Ground, only two remain in Camp and one of them too requests to be gone; thus, am I put to the pain of refusing the indulgencies which Gentlemen require or of leaving the whole of the Troops with only one General Officer.

[56] In the writing of David Humphreys. In the draft, which is also by Humphreys, there is added at the end, in the writing of Washington, "and I shall have no objection to it."

[57] The word "reasonable" is erased.

I mention these things to shew you, that nothing but *the most urgent necessity* can justify my permitting you to be absent, and to induce you to make your stay from Camp as short as possible.

As it is of consequence that the business to be laid before the board of General Officers ordered Yesterday should be decided immediately, I have to request you will not leave Camp before it is finished. I am &c.[58]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, February 10, 1783.

Sir: You will proceed immediately with a flag to Paulus Hook[59] and from thence to New York to make the necessary Arrangement in your Department with the British Comy of Prisoners at that place.

One servant is permitted to attend you into New York and the Officer and Party mentioned in the Margin to escort you to the British Out Post.[60]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, February 10, 1783.

Sir: I have it in charge from the Commander in Chief to acknowledge the rect of your two Letters of this date addressed to him. In a Country where the Qrs are in general so indifferent, the climate so cold, and fuel (within a short distance) so plenty, The General thinks it would scarcely be necessary or

[58] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

[59] The Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress spell this "Powles Hook."

[60] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Smith had written (February 8) that a cutter from Europe was "anxiously" expected at New York, "on the 6th 60 Guineas were laid to 30, at the Coffee House, in favour of a peace upon her arrival."

proper to give a limitation to the allowance of Wood for the Genl Officers, especially as the quantity required will fluctuate greatly according to the Company they entertain and other accidental circumstances; and as it is to be presumed they will never make use of more than they have actual occasion for; as to the allowance for other Officers, who are not in Huts (and of whom the number must be inconsiderable) he considers it an object not of sufficient magnitude to require regulation; but he approves extremely the Idea you suggest of Regimental Magazines and will Issue an order on the subject.

I am farther instructed to inform you, His Excellency consents that you should go to Philadelphia for the purposes you have mentioned, and return at the time you have appointed which it is his express wish and desire you will do whether the Money or any part of it can be obtained or not. I have the honor etc.[61]

To BENOÎT JOSEPH DE TARLÉ

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your very polite Letter of the 1st of Feby. and am extremely happy to hear, that His Most Christian Majesty has been pleased to permit you to continue with your Administration on this Continent, with a gracious intention (should a Peace not be concluded this winter) that an Event shall take place the next summer which will be equally pleasing and important to us.

In the mean time I shall be perfectly satisfied with any Arrangements respecting the place of your residence which may be agreed on between the Duke de Lauzun and yourself, and have only to add, that I am etc.[62]

[61] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."
[62] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Sir: It was only because I expected momently the satisfaction of seeing you at my Quarters, that denied myself the pleasure of acknowledging your extremely obliging Letter of the 23 of Janry at the instant it came to hand; but since I find by your other favor of the 4th of Feby (which was duly delivered by Col McMahon[63] on the Evening of the 5th) that you may not perhaps arrive until fourteen days from that date; I cannot delay any longer to thank you for the repeated proofs you have given of your partiallity and attachment to me, and at the same time to assure you how happy I shall be made by your presence, and with how great veneration and esteem I have the honor etc.

P. S. I had proposed to make a visit to the Posts on our Northern frontiers about this time, but shall delay the Journey until the 18th. the time affixed in your last letter for being at my Quarters. Should your arrival be postponed beyond that day, I shall hope for the pleasure of seeing you at my return, or in any moment when it can be made convenient for you.[64]

*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 22d. of Jany. from Philadelpa. I feel myself much flattered by your kind remembrance of me in the hour of your departure from this Continent.[65] and for the favourable Sentiments you are

[63] Charles Laure de MacMahon, Marquis de Vianges et d'Eguilly, colonel and aide to Lauzun.

[64] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[65] Jefferson did not leave America, as the news of the successful negotiation of the preliminary treaty of peace made it unnecessary. Congress decided, Apr. 3, 1783, that it was unnecessary for him to proceed.

pleased to entertain of my Services for this our common Country. To merit the approbation of good and virtuous Men is the height of my ambition, and will be a full compensation for all my toils and Sufferings in the long and painful Contest we have been engaged.

It gave me great pleasure to hear that the call upon you from Congress to pass the Atlantic in the Character of one of their Ministers for Negotiating Peace, had been repeated.[66] But I hope you will have found the business already done.

The Speech of his Britainic Majesty is strongly indicative of the Olive branch; and yet, as he observes, unforeseen events may place it out of reach. At present, the prospect of Peace absorbs, or seems to do so, every other consideration among us; and would, it is to be feared, leave us in a very unprepared state to continue the War if the Negociations at Paris should terminate otherwise than in a general pacification. but I will hope that it is the dearth of other News that fills the Mouths of every person with Peace while their Minds are employed in contemplating on the means for prosecuting the War, if necessity should drive us to it.

You will please to accept my grateful thanks for your obliging offer of Services during your stay in France. To hear frequently from you, will be an honor and very great satisfaction to Dr. Sir etc.

To REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT DIGBY

Head Quarters, February 10, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency, a Letter from the Governor and Council of Maryland which came to me inclosed in a Letter from Mr. Giles an Extract of

[66] Jefferson had been elected in 1776 one of the United States Commissioners to France, but had declined serving.

which I also have the honor to inclose. It is not in my department, and I should therefore have returned it, to go thro' the Agent of Marine, but the consequences that might attend a delay, induced me to dispense with the regular mode in this instance, and to transmit the application directly to your Excellency. I am &c.[67]

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, February 11, 1783.

Sir: A Board of General Officers were appointed in the Orders of the 9th. to assemble on thursday next at such place as should be appointed by Major Genl Gates, to take into consideration certain Points contained in a Memorial of Brigr. Genl Hazen relative to the Proceedings of Courts Martial &c. It is now the Commander Chiefs request that you will attend the sd Board to aid and assist in investigating the subject, and digesting the report thereon. I have the honor etc.[68]

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Newburgh, February 11, 1783.

Sir: Within these few days I have seen Printed copies of "A remonstrance of the Council of the State of Vermont, against the Resolutions of Congress of the 5th. of December last,"[69] Addressed to your Excellency; in which are several quotations from a letter of mine.

Duty as well as inclination prompts me to lay before Congress the whole of that Letter; and the one to which it was an answer.

[67] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[68] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A. D. C."
[69] See *Vermont Historical Society, Collections,* vol. 2, p. 315, *et seq.*

If it should be necessary, a Committee of Congress with whom I was in conference on these matters in the course of last Winter, can give such further information on this subject as I doubt not will be satisfactory. I have the honr. etc.[70]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, February 11, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Romney, Sandwich.

For the day tomorrow Major Rice.

For duty the 8th. Massachusetts regiment.

The 4th. Massachusetts Regiment will march on thursday next to the relief of the first New York regiment on the Lines.

The Quarter Master General agrees to give six pence, or half a ration per cord for the wood cut for the use of the hospitals, of which the parties employed for that purpose may avail themselves.

The Commander in chief is pleased to direct that all General and other officers who belong to, or expect Commands in this Army and who do not consider themselves included in the order of the 11th. day of December last, should be in Camp by the 15th. of April next at farthest, but in case the Weather should prove favorable for commencing the Decipline of the troops upon a great scale at an earlier period; it is most earnestly recomended that the Major Generals and Brigadiers who are or will be appointed to the commands of Divisions or Brigades (altho they may have discretionary leave of absence) would actually be on the ground in season to take the command in the first instance, and to consider themselves as having the immedi-

[70] In the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 40, vol. II, fol. 365. A copy of Washington's letter of Jan. 1, 1782, to Thomas Chittenden, is filed with this letter from Washington, which is indorsed by Charles Thomson: "Read Feby 17. 1783 Referred to Mr [Daniel] Carroll Mr [Nathaniel] Gorham Mr [Arthur] Lee Mr [John Taylor] Gilman Mr [Oliver] Wolcott."

ate charge of Disciplining and Manœuvring the troops of their respective commands. No officer of any rank whatsoever can be ashamed of Commanding troops which make such an excellent appearance under arms as ours will, with a little more experience and instruction; and no one will be excused from attending personally to these important duties of his station. The Commander in chief expects therefore the pleasure of seeing the Commanding officers of Divisions and Brigades on field days (which will be made frequent for the purpose) take occasion themselves to exercise the Corps under their Command in his presence.

AFTER ORDERS

The Inspection and Muster of the troops as specified in the orders of the 9th. instant, is postponed till further Orders.

*To JOSEPH JONES

Newburgh, February 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am about to write you a Letter on a subject equally important and delicate, which may be extensive in its consequences and serious in its nature. I shall confine myself to the recital of what I believe to be facts, and leave it with you, to make deductions.

The printed remonstrance of Mr. Chittenden and his Council addressed to the President of Congress, and founded upon the resolves of the 5th. of December last, contains a favourable recital, in their own behalf, of what I suppose to be facts; but if my memory serves me, it is an uncandid performance, inasmuch as it keeps out of view an important transaction of theirs, which was consequent of those resolves. Be this as it may, matters seem to be approaching too fast to a disagreeable Issue for the quiet of my Mind. The resolves on one hand, and the

remonstrances on the other, (unless it should be annulled by the Legislature at their next meeting, which I do not expect) seems to leave little room for an amicable decision.

Matters being thus situated, permit me to ask how far, and by what means, coercion is to be extended? The Army, I presume, will be the answer to the latter. circumstances alone (for no determination whatever, after blood is once drawn) can prescribe bounds to the former. It has been said, but of this you can judge better than I, that the Delegates from the New England States in Congress, or the Majority of them, are willing to admit these People into the Federal Union as an Independent and Sovereign State. be this as it may, two things I am sure of, viz. that they have a powerful interest in those States; and have pursued very politic measures to strengthen and increase, long before I had any knowledge of the matter, and before the tendency of it was seen into, or suspected; by granting, upon very advantageous terms, large Tracts of Land, in which, I am sorry to find, the Army, in some degree, have participated.

Let me next ask, by whom is that district of Country principally settled? And of whom is your present Army (I do not confine the question to this part of it, but will extend it to the whole) composed? the answers are evident, New Englandmen.

It has been the opinion of some, that the appearance of force would awe these People into submission. If the General Assembly ratifie and confirm what Mr. Chittenden and his Council have done, I shall be of a very different Sentiment; and moreover, that it is not a trifling force that will subdue them; even supposing they do derive no aid from the Enemy in Canada. and that it will be a very arduous task indeed, if they should; to say nothing of a diversion which may, and doubtless would be made in their favor from New York, if the War with Great Britain should continue.

The Country is very Mountainous, full of Defiles, and extremely strong. The Inhabitants for the most part are a hardy race, composed of that kind of People who are best calculated for Soldiers; in truth who are Soldiers: for many, many hundreds of them are Deserters from this Army; who having acquired property there, would be desperate in the defence of it, well knowing they are fighting with Halters about their Necks.

It may be asked, if I am acquainted with the Sentiments of the Army on the subject of this dispute? I readily answer No: not intimately; it is a matter of too delicate a Nature to agitate for the purpose of information. but I have heard many Officers of Rank and discernment, and have learned by indirect inquiries, that others, express the utmost horror at the very idea of shedding blood in this dispute comparing it in its consequences, tho' not in its principles, to the quarrel with Great Britain; who thought it was only to hold up the rod, and all would be hush!

I cannot at *this time* undertake to say there would be any difficulty with the Army if it was to be ordered upon this Service; but I should be exceedingly unhappy to see the experiment. for besides the reasons before suggested, I believe there would be a great, and general unwillingness in it, to embrue their hands in the blood of their Brethern.

I have to add, that almost at the same instant, a number of the printed Copies of the remonstrance were dissiminated through the Army. what effect it will have I know not; the design is obvious.

I promised in the beginning of this Letter, that I should content myself with a simple relation of facts. I shall only lament therefore, that Congress did not, in the commencement of this dispute, act decidedly. This matter, as you well know, was much agitated last Winter; and a Committee of Congress with

whom I had the honor to be in conference, and of wch. I believe you were one. saw Mr. Chittenden's letter to me; and approved of my writing him an answer, to the effect it was given. With great regard etc.

To THE BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: I do inclose you a Letter and Memorial of the 13th of January last from Brigadier General Hazen in behalf of himself and twenty four Officers of his regiment remonstrating generally on the want of System and some general established rules in the Proceedings of Courts Martial, by which means the innocent have been at some times injured and the Guilty escaped the punishment due to their Crimes; And then pointing out Cases in which they conceive that for want of some certain uniform rules the Determinations and Proceedings of General Courts Martial have on different occasions been diametrically opposite, to the exclusion of themselves from redress for supposed injuries received from Major Reid; and praying that for some supposed Misconduct and partiallity in Mr. Edwards the Judge Advocate the Proceedings of a late General Courts Martial of which the late Colonel, now General Putnam was President might be set aside and that I would direct an inquiry into the matters complained of and a full and fair Trial of Major Reid on the Charges by them exhibited against him.

This Memorial as far as it respected Major Reids Trial was referred to a Board of General Officers of which Major General Gates was President which Board on the 23d of January did report to me as follows to wit

We are of Opinion that the Conduct of the Judge Advocate upon that occasion should be investigated in the first place; As, if it appears by such investigation that through his Neglect or Partiallity the Court were not

possessed of every knowledge and Light which could be thrown on the Case before them, a revision of the Proceedings by the same Court, or a new Trial of Major Reid by another Court must be the natural consequence, that should the uprightness of the Judge Advocate fully appear upon such an investigation being had we think no Appeal can be allowed; and that the only redress the parties who suppose themselves injured can obtain will be an inquiry into their Conduct before a Court convened for that purpose, at which Major Reid might be ordered to attend, to support his Allegations.

I am now to inform you Gentlemen that in consequence of the receipt of a Copy of the preceeding report by Brig. General Hazen he has for himself and the Officers of his regiment transmitted me the inclosed Letter of the 29th January covering a number of Charges of equal date against Mr. Edwards the Judge Advocate of the Army, also inclosed.

In order to prevent a similar complaint against so important a part of our Military System as the Channel appointed for the equal distribution of public justice to every Member of the Army, on account of a defect of some certain rules for the Government of General Courts Martial and their Officer the Judge Advocate; I wish you to take up the matter on a General Scale and that you will report to me what in general cases is and ought to be the business of a Judge Advocate, precisely delineating his duties as well with relation to the Court as with respect to the Accuser and accused.

It is my wish also that you will take up the Charges exhibited against Mr. Edwards and on a review of the Memorial of the 13th determine whether any and which of them as specified in the Letter and inclosure of the 29th, *if true* are really military charges And for which Mr. Edwards now at the head of the Department and as Acting Judge Advocate against Major Reid is amenable to a Court Martial; And that you will then enter into a full investigation of the truth of the matters which you shall suppose to be objects of Charge against Mr. Edwards and

report thereon without delay that I may be enabled to determine whether a General Court Martial will be necessary for his Trial, or the proceedings of the General Court Martial against Major Reid should be approved and General Hazen and his Officers referred to the alternative pointed out in the report of the board of General Officers above mentioned. I have the honor etc.[71]

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Newburgh, February 12, 1783.

Dear Lund: Your letter of the 29th. of Jany. came by the last Post. You do not seem to have considered the force and tendency of the words of yr. letter when you talk of the probability *only* of sending me "the long promised account" "the irregularity of them"; not you add "for want of knowledge in keeping them but neglect; your aversion to writing" &ca.&ca. These are but other words for saying, "as I am not fond of writing, and it is *quite* immaterial whether you have any knowledge or information of your private concerns or whether the accts. are kept properly or not, I have delayed, and do not know how much longer I may continue to delay bringing you acquainted with these accts. irregular as they are."

Delicacy hitherto, and a hope that you long ago would have seen into the propriety of the measure, without a hint of it from me, has restrained me from telling you that annual Accts. of my Crops, together with the receipts and expenditure of my money, state of my stocks, &ca. ought to have been sent to me as regularly as the year came about. It is not to be supposed, that all the avocations of my public duties, great and laborious as they have been, could render me totally insensible to the *only means* by which myself and family; and the character I am to

[71] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

maintain in life hereafter, is to be supported, or that a precise acct. of these matters would not have been exceedingly satisfactory to me. Instead of this, except the Acct. rendered at Valley forge in the year 1778 I have received none since I left home; and not till after two or 3 applications in the course of last year could I get any acct. of the Crop of the preceeding one; and then only of the Corn by the Post on Sunday last.

I have often told you, and I repeat it with much truth; that the entire confidence which I placed in your integrity made me easy, and I was always happy at thinking that my Affairs were in your hands, which I could not have been, if they had been under the care of a common Manager; but this did not exempt me from the desires which all men have, of knowing the exact state of them. I have now to beg that you will not only send me the Account of your receipts, and expenditures of Specie; but of every kind of money subsequent to the Acct. exhibited at Valley Forge, which ended sometime in April 1778.

I want to know before I come home (as I shall come home with empty pockets whenever Peace shall take place) how Affairs stand with me, and what my dependence is.

I wish to know also, what I have to expect from the Wheat of 1781 and 82, as you say the two Crops are so blended that they cannot be rendered seperately? How are settlements to be made with and justice done to the several Parties Interested under these circumstances?[72]

To EDWARD GILES[73]

Head Quarters, February 12, 1783.

Sir: I was last Post favored with your Letter of the 31 January, inclosing a Letter from the Governor and Council of

[72] Endorsed by Washington: "Extract of a Letter to Mr Lund Washington."
[73] Of Maryland.

Maryland to Admiral Digby, requesting a Passport for a Vessel to carry you to Bermuda.

This application should have gone thro Mr. Morris as Agent of Marine, it being intirely out of my department, however as a delay in the transaction of this business might have been fatal to you, I did not hesitate to send the Letter directly to the Admiral and to write to him my Self on the Subject, and his Answer, when it arrives shall be forwarded to you immediately.[74]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, February 12, 1783.

Parole Turkey. Countersigns Virginia, Wilmington.

For the day tomorrow Major Scott.

For duty the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

The General applauds the provident care shewn by the regiments which have laid up Magazines of wood while the snow gave such facility to the transportation; should so favourable an oppertunity again happen, he wishes a sufficient stock of fuel might be provided to serve untill the first of April, or even the first of May if practicable. It is scarcely necessary to mention how much the labour of the men as well as the distruction of the Cloathing would be diminished if the measure recomended could be carried into effect.

The Accounts of Subsistence for the month of March to be lodged at the pay office by the 24th. instant for examination that the notes may immediately on their arrival be issued to the whole Army. A simular mode to be hereafter observed and considered as a standing Regulation.

[74] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

The field officer of the day and officers commanding patrolls instead of assembling at the place appointed in the orders of the 25th. of December last, will in future meet at theNew building.

AFTER ORDERS

The remains of the late Lieutt. Col. Comdt. Barber[75] will be interred tomorrow. The procession will set out at 10 o'clock A. M. from Mr. Dennisons house the Quarters of the deceased.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, February 13, 1783.

Parole Andalucia. Countersigns Bristol, Charlotte.

For the day tomorrow Major Oliver.

For duty the Maryland Detachment.

At the General courtmartial whereof Colonel Zebulon Butler is president: Captain Lieutenant Taulman[76] of the Corps of Sappers and Miners, was tried, charged first with disobedience of Orders, particularly in not making out a provision Return of the company under his command agreably to the form sent him December the 31st. 1782 for the purpose by Captn. Bushnell[77] his Commanding officer; in bringing his Baggage into Captain Bushnells Quarters the 1st of January last, contrary to Captn. Bushnells command to him, and refusing to take it away agreeably to Captain Bushnells express orders. 2dly. With sending an indecent and impertinent answer to Captn. Bushnells order, subversion of good order and Decipline and unbecoming the Character of a Gentleman or an officer. 3dly. with mutinous behavior particularly in Commandg.

[75] Lieut. Col. Francis Barber. He had been promoted to colonel of the Second New Jersey Regiment in January, 1783. He was killed by a falling tree on February 11.

[76] Capt.-Lieut. Peter Taulman. He served to the close of the war.

[77] Capt. David Bushnell. He served to June, 1783.

soldiers to disobey Captain Bushnells express orders to them, on the 1st. of January last.

The Court after maturely considering the evidences for and against Captn. Lieut. Taulman and his Defence are of opinion that he did not make out a provision return agreably to a form sent him for that purpose Decr. the 31st. 1782, by Captain Bushnell his Commanding officer, and also that he did order his Baggage into Captn. Bushnells quarters the first of January last contrary to Captain Bushnells command to him, and refused to take it away agreably to Captn. Bushnell's express orders in breach of the latter part of art. 5 section 2d. of the rules and articles of war, the Court are also of opinion that Captain Lieutenant Taulmans answer to Captn. Bushnells order to him of the 31st. December 1782 is indecent and impertinent and unbecoming the Character of an Officer in breach of articles the 5th. section 18th. of the Rules and articles of war. On the third charge the Court are of opinion that Captain Lieutenant Taulman did order soldiers to disobey the express orders of Captain Bushnell on the 1st. of January, in such a manner however as not to amount to mutinous behavior, but which does amount to very disorderly behavior in breach of Article 5th. section 18th. of the rules and articles of war.

The court sentence Captain Lt. Taulman to be repremanded in Genl. orders, and be suspended from service for three months.[78]

At the same court, Captain Lieutenant Kirkpatrick[79] of the corps of Sappers and Miners, was tried charged with mutinous behavior and disobedience of orders on the first of January last

[78] On February 18 Washington wrote to Taulman, in answer to his query, that "you are perfectly at liberty to leave the Army for the whole time of your suspension." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[79] Capt.-Lieut. David Kirkpatrick. He had been wounded at Yorktown in October, 1781, and served to June, 1783.

in the following particulars, first for commanding soldiers to disobey the express orders of Captn. Bushnell, Commandant of the corps, of Sappers and Miners second for ordering his Captn. Lt. Kirkpatricks Baggage into Captn. Bushnells quarters, contrary to Captn. Bushnells command to him, and refusing to take it away agreable to Captn. Bushnells express orders.

The court after maturely considering the evidences for and against Captain Lieutt. Kirkpatrick and his defence are of opinion that Captain Lt. Kirkpatrick did on the first of January order soldiers to disobey the express orders of Captain Bushnell his commanding officer, and also that he did order his baggage into Captain Bushnells Quarters contrary to Captain Bushnells command to him, and refused to take it away agreably to Captn. Bushnells express orders to him. The court acquit Captn. Lieutenant Kirkpatrick of mutinous behavior but find him guilty of disobedience of orders in breach of a part of article 5th. section 2d. of the rules and articles of war and sentence him to be repremanded in Genl. orders.

The Commander in chief approves the foregoing sentences.

Had the transaction's which are the subject of reprehension taken place at the commencement of our military establishment, want of experience, ignorance of the rules of service or someother palliating circumstance might have been plead in excuse; and would in some degree have effaced the blot which now stains a page in the Records of the Army; but at this period of the war, when the necessity of subordination, and the principles of service are generally well understood, and practiced, Captn. Lieutt. Taulman and Captn. Lt. Kirkpatrick could not but have known, that the improper Conduct, willful disobedience of Orders they have been guilty of were an outrageous infraction of military Decipline: and the behavior of Captain

Lieutenant Taulman (that officer must be sensible) would have justified a more rigorous and exemplary sentence; with this consciousness to attend them, the Commander in Chief leaves the young Gentlemen to the sting of their own reflections as a punishment for what is past, and only advises them not to be guilty of any thing of a simular nature in future.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, February 14, 1783.

Parole Danbury. Countersigns Epsom, Farmingham.

For the day tomorrow Major Trescott.

For duty the first Jersey regiment.

The following Papers are to be transmitted to the Office of the Deputy pay master Genl. without delay: first, Duplicate accounts of the pay of the Army on its present Arrangemt., for the month of January 1783; second, Certificates of the appointments of regimental paymasters by the officers of their respective regiments, seigned by the Commanding officer; third, Abstracts of money to be drawn weekly for the Noncomd. officers and privates, on account of their pay for the month of January last, according to the following rates:

Infantry: To each Serjeant, 67/90 Pr. Week; Drum and Fife Majors, 60/90; Drums, fifes, Corporals and privates, 49/90.

Cavalry: Serjeants, 1 2/90; Corporals and Carriers, 67/90; Privates, 56/90.

Sappers and Miners: Serjeants, 67/90; Corpls., 60/90; Drums and fifes, 58/90; privates, 56/90.

Artillery: Serjeants Majors and Qr. Mr. Sereant, 76/90; Drum and Fife Major, 70/90; Serjeants, 67/90; Corporals and Bombadiers, 60/90; Gunners, Drumers, and fifers, 58/90; Matrosses, 56/90.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Head Quarters, February 14, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has reced information, that some Waggons are on the road to Camp, laden with money for the Army; they were Escorted by a Guard from Phildelphia to Pompton, where a Guard of twenty Men took charge of them and was to bring them to Ringwood, if possible, this Evening.

His Excellency desires, that for the farther Security of the Treasure a Guard of a Captain and fifty Men may be detached *immediately* to relieve Genl Hazens Guard and escort the Waggons to Camp. I am &c.[80]

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Newburgh, February 15, 1783.

Madam: The Post of last week brought me the honor of your favor of the 20th. Decembr., enclosing two Letters for England, which were put under cover to Majr. Murray, and forwarded the next day, with public dispatches for New York.

Whether your Letter had lain in any of the Post Offices between this and Annapolis, or detained in your own hands any considerable time after it was written, is a matter you can determine better than I, but there was a lapse of more than seven weeks between the date and receipt of it.

I beg you to be persuaded Madam, that your Letters do not give me the smallest trouble: public business occasions such frequent intercourse between the two armies, by Flags, that if you were to write every week your letters would never remain seven days in my hands for want of a conveyance to New York.

[80] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

I mention this matter to remove every possible scruple you may have on the score of trouble, and to prove how unnecessary it is to apologize for what you are pleased to call a liberty. My compliments, in which Mrs. Washington joins, is presented to yourself and Mr. Lloyd, and, I have the honor etc.[81]

To CAPTAIN PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT[82]

Head Quarters, February 15, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 20th of January did not reach me till Yesterday.

In answer to it, I can only repeat what I before said on the same subject, in answer to your former application, that from the testimony of those under whom you have served and from the little opportunity I have myself had of observing your conduct, I have every reason to believe you a Meritorious Officer; nor will any objection arise on my part to a compliance on the part of Congress with your request.[83]

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT DOBBS FERRY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 15, 1783.

Sir: Captn. West and Mr. Manga[84] have permission to make application for liberty to go into the City of New York to distribute a sum of Money (about £200 L.M.[85]) among the Naval Prisoners belonging to the Town of Salem in Massachusetts, which being procured, they may proceed to the City, if they cannot obtain that permission, or do not choose to wait for an Ansr. you will send a Flag of Truce with the Money to the Enemy's Outpost, addressed to the particular care of Colonel

[81] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.
[82] Of Engineers.
[83] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[84] Capt. Samuel West and Peter Mangé.
[85] Varick's writers translate this "Lawful Money."

Smith, who is to be requested to cause the sd. Money to be paid to such Marine Prisoners, and in such proportions as shall be pointed out by the above mentioned Gentlemen. I am etc.

P. S. Should the Gentlemen go in, they must be notified to wait upon Col Smith in New York and take his Advice and direction relative to their business.[86]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, February 15, 1783.

Parole Gottenburgh. Countersigns Hannover, Inverness.

For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs.

For duty the 2d. Jersey regiment.

The New building being so far finished as to admit the troops to attend public worship therein after tomorrow, it is directed that divine Service should be performed there every Sunday by the several Chaplains of the New Windsor Cantonment, in rotation and in order that the different brigades may have an oppertunity of attending at different hours in the same day (when ever the weather and other circumstances will permit which the Brigadiers and Commandants of brigades must determine) the General recommends that the Chaplains should in the first place consult the Commanding officers of their Brigades to know what hour will be most convenient and agreeable for attendance that they will then settle the duty among themselves and report the result to the Brigadiers and Commandants of Brigades who are desired to give notice in their orders and to afford every aid and assistance in their power for the promotion of that public Homage and adoration which are due to the supreme being, who has through his infinite goodness brought our public Calamities and dangers (in all humane probability) very near to a happy conclusion.

[86] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

The General has been surprised to find in Winter Qrs. that the Chaplains have frequently been almost all absent, at the same time, under an idea their presence could not be of any utility at that season; he thinks it is proper, he should be allowed to judge of that matter himself, and therefore in future no furloughs will be granted to Chaplains except in consequence of permission from Head quarters, and any who may be now absent without such permission are to be ordered by the Commanding officers of their Brigades to join immediately, after which not more than one third of the whole number will be indulged with leave of absence at a time. They are requested to agree among themselves upon the time and length of their furloughs before any application shall be made to Head quarters on the subject.

The Commander in Chief also desires and expects the Chaplains in addition to their public functions will in turn constantly attend the Hospitals and visit the sick, and while they are thus publickly and privately engaged in performing the sacred duties of their office they may depend upon his utmost encouragement and support on all occasions, and that they will be considered in a very respectable point of light by the whole Army.

*To DAVID RITTENHOUSE

Newburgh, February 16, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 7th., and beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the favor confered on me in the Glasses, which are very fine, but more particularly for the flattering expressions which accompanied the present.

On Feruary 15 Washington wrote to the commanding officer at Dobbs Ferry granting permission for George Nicholson, of Virginia, to have an interview "with the British Merchants Capitulants at York Town in Virginia; for which purpose, he may either have permission to go with a flag into the City of N York or such Merchants aforesd as shall be specified by him may be suffered to come with a flag to the Post of Dobbs Ferry." This draft is in the Washington Papers.

The Spectacles suit my Eyes extremely well, as I am perswaded the reading glasses also will when I get more accustomed to the use of them. At present I find some difficulty in coming at the proper Focus; but when I do obtain it, they magnify properly and shew those objects very distinctly which at first appear like a mist blended together and confused.

I send the amount of the Silver Smiths charge, and with great esteem etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, February 16, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency wishes you to take the Opinion of the Board of General Officers, assembled at your Quarters, on the following Case: A General Court Martial sentences an Officer to be suspended for a given time.

2. In what manner does this Suspension Operate?

Is the Officer, suspended not only from Command but from Pay and other Emoluments of service? and if so, Is he totally detached from Service during the suspension? or how far is he under Military restraint? With the highest respect etc.[87]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, February 16, 1783.

Parole Kidderminster. Countersigns Lamberton, Milford.

For the day tomorrow Major Knapp.

For duty the 2d. Newyork regiment.

By the last Inspection report it appears there are a small number of Bayonetts wanting in several corps of the army; the deficiency must be supplyed before the Genl. sees the Troops under arms.

[87] In the writing of and signed "Ben Walker Aid De Camp."

In whatever Regiments or Corps the full compliment of Drums and Fifes have been furnished by the public since the Resolve of Congress of the 22d. January 1782 that supply must be made good and kept compleat by regular stoppages from the weekly allowances of the pay of such Drumers and Fifers as may be deficient. Colonels and Commandants of those corps are responsible for the execution of this order, and in all other regiments or Corps the most effacacious measures should be taken to obtain a sufficient number of these articles without a moments delay, which are then to be kept compleat in the same manner.

At the Inspection of the troops which shall be made in the month of March, the Inspector of Musick will be present at every regiment and corps with the Inspector of the Army, to examine into the state of the Music; and the number of Instruments in each; he will make report thereof to the Commander in Chief at the conclusion of the Inspection.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 17, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Wetmore the Depy. Pay Master to this Army is authorized by the Financier to draw Bills upon Philadelphia and Boston for certain sums to be applied to the payment of the Troops weekly, and he is advised by the Pay Master General to use his utmost efforts to negociate those Draughts for specie that the payments might commence without delay: whereupon Mr. Wetmore has conceived it his duty to wait upon your Excellency; he will deliver this Letter, and will have the honor of explaining this subject more fully. As the Money is extremely wanted, and as it will be expended and

continue to circulate almost intirely in this State, I doubt not he will meet with every assistance, which either the Legislative Body, or any of the Individuals who compose it, may have it in their power to afford him.

I have taken much pains to prevent the violation of private property by the Troops under my command, and I cannot but flatter myself that the regulations which have been adopted will be attended with the desired effect. I have also established regular Markets, which I am persuaded will be found very convenient and useful to both the Country and Army, especially as soon as the Troops begin to receive their Weekly payments; but in order to put a total stop to an evil which I am apprehensive will otherwise be of very pernicious consequences, it is my earnest wish and desire, that effectual Measures might be taken to prevent the Inhabitants from purchasing or receiving in any other manner, Articles of public property that may be in possession of the Soldiery. I shall establish every possible military precaution to cut off this improper commerce and beg leave to propose whether it might not be expedient for the Legislature to pass an Act prohibiting such purchases on the part of their Subjects under such fines or penalties as may seem sufficient to them for answering the aforesaid purpose.

Inclosed your Excellency will find a Certificate which lately came into my hands respecting a certain Mr. Boothe,[88] I pretend not to determine how far the fact specifyed therein ought to operate in his favour, being satisfied it will have whatever consideration it shall appear to merit. I have the honor etc.[89]

[88] The certificate was from Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge and referred to the conduct of a William Booth, of New York.

[89] In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

*QUERIES SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

February 17, 1783.

1st. Is the reduction of the Lines of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and New Jersey to take place on the 1st. March?[90]

2. In that case shall the Troops of New Hampshire be organized into one Regiment of 500 Rank and file, and the residue formed into one compleat Battalion of four Companies and the Troops of Jersey the same? or what mode shall be adopted.[91]

3d. Will it not be best to reform Hazen's Regiment immediately and put it upon the same Establishment as the rest of the Army?[92]

4th. Should not every possible effort be made to furnish Scarlet cloth for facings and other Materials for turning the present Coats of the Army?[93]

5. The German Armourers Cartridge Boxes, Colours &c should be sent on?[94]

6. It seems necessary that something should be done towards regulating the Issues of Provision to the Canadian Refugees And is Colo. Antills family entitled to draw, under that denomination.[95]

7. By whom are Officers to be appointed to the Sappers and Miners. Are the three Companies to be reduced to one. Mr. Reckless[96] a Volunteer in that Corps wishes an Appointment.[97]

[90] To this the Secretary answered "Yes."

[91] The answer was: Four complete companies to make one battalion; the others into one regiment.

[92] The answer was: Yes.

[93] The answer was: "I will leave no measure untried to Effect it."

[94] The answer was: The German armorers have been sent for; cartridge boxes are being made and repaired; and colors will be sent on. "I wish they were better than they are."

[95] The answer was: A officer should investigate and superintend the business. Will investigate the Antill matter.

[96] Lieut. Anthony Reckless. He was given the rank of lieutenant in 1780 in the Sappers and Miners, and served to the close of the war.

[97] The answer was: Would have to defer an answer until he returned to Philadelphia.

8. The Inspectors cannot do the duty of their department, if provision is not made to pay their contingent Expences.[98]

9. What should be done with Captain Sumners[99] demand for forage whilst he commanded a Regiment and other Cases of a similar Nature[1]

10. Cannot something be done for Mr. Griswold,[2] whose Case is explained in his Letter and Colo. Huntingtons[3] annexed; a transferrence to the Corps of Invalids would save him from Starving.[4]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, February 17, 1783.

Parole Nantasket. Countersigns Oswego, Portsmouth.

For the day tomorrow Colonel J. Vose.

For duty the first Hampshire regiment.

The Artillery Artificers are to draw the same weekly allowance of Money on account of Pay for January as the Artillery, and abstracts for them are to be made out accordingly.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, February 18, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Ringwood, Salisbury.

For the day tomorrow Major Pettingill.

For duty the 2d. Hampshire regiment.

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[98] The answer was: That he will attempt to have the money advanced.

[99] Capt. Job Sumner, of the Third Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed major in March, 1783, to rank from October, 1782, and served to June, 1784.

[1] The answer was: A matter to be settled by the Quartermaster General.

[2] Lieut. Andrew Griswold, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He had been wounded at Germantown in October, 1777, and resigned in July, 1782.

[3] Col. Ebenezer Huntington's letter is not now found.

[4] The answer was: Griswold to receive rations until Congress acts on his and other similar cases. "I will report it to Congress."

The entire document, both queries and answers, is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The answers of the Secretary at War are in a parallel column and signed by Lincoln. The document is dated by Washington.

The Arrangement of the Lines of New-Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Jersey is to take place on the 1st. day of March, upon the principals pointed out in the resolutions of Congress of the 7th. of August and 19th. of Novr.; and which have been made public in the orders of the 30th. of October and 26th. November 1782.

The troops of Newhampshire are to be formed into one Regiment and one Battalion. The Battalion to consist of four Companies of fifty rank and file each, with one Adjutant, Quarter Master, Pay master, Surgeon or Mate, and to be commanded by two Field Officers. The Regiment to be composed of the residue of the troops of that Line; with the same number of Commissioned officers as were directed for each regiment in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Lines in the Orders of the 26th. of November last.

The formation of the Corps of New Jersey on this Arrangement to be precisely the same as ordered for the Troops of New Hampshire.

The Regiment of Rhode Island to be reduced to one Battalion and to be composed of as many Companys as there are men sufficient to complete, with such Commissd. and Non-commissioned staff as may be necessary; to be commanded by two field officers.

The Commanding officers of the several Lines above mentioned will superintend the re-formation; and as soon as the Arrangements become complete, Duplicate Returns of the officers retained in service are to be lodged at the orderly office; also duplicate Lists of the officers who shall have retired in consequence of the reduction, agreeably to the forms which will be annexed by the Adjutant Genl.

The Commander in Chief in riding through the Lines yesterday with the honorable the secretary at war was exceedingly pleased to hear that Gentleman express the highest Admiration

at the beauty and order of the Cantonments and the cleanliness of the different Parades. The Genl. himself was not a little satisfied with the prompt obedience to his late orders which was so universally conspicuous.

The Muster of the troops of the Cantonments for the month of January will take place on the following days vizt.: The Jersey Brigade on the 19th; York do. 20th; Hampshire do. 21st; 2d. Massachusts. do. 22d; 1st. do. do. 23d; 3d. do. do. 24th instant.

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 18, 1783.

Dear Baron: On the 18th. of Janry I wrote to Colonel Stewart urging in the strongest terms I was master of, the necessity of his immediately joining the Army; since which time I have not heard a word from him. I now think myself obliged in justice to my own official character, and duty to the Public to signify to you as head of the Department, that it will be essential to the service either for Colonel Stewart to repair to Camp without one Moment's loss of time, or that another Inspector should be appointed to this Army as soon as possibly may be.

I beg you will be pleased to understand that the occasion of my being so explicit on this subject, is, because I have repeatedly heard that Colonel Stewart had entirely recovered his health, and cannot in that case conceive of any just reason for his being absent; and because I am fully convinced the service is every day suffering very great inconveniencies and injury for want of himself, or some other Gentleman of character and abilities to execute the duties of the office he sustains. It being absolutely impossible for Major Barber (notwithstanding he make the greatest exertions) to perform the whole business of the Department Monthly in the manner it ought to be done. I am &c.[5]

[N.Y.H.S.]

[5] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, February 18, 1783.

Sir: B General Hazen represents to me, that Lt. Kinney[6] of your Regiment was some time since apprehended, below the Enemy's Lines, on suspicion of being concerned in illicit Trade and was sent up to the Cantonment at Pompton, where he was ordered by Gen Hazen to remain till the matter was examined into and decided or till he should be permitted to depart; notwithstanding which Orders, he left the Cantonment without leave and has not since been heard of.

Should this Officer have Joined his Regiment, or whenever he does join it, I am to desire that you will immediately Arrest him, and send him to Head Quarters that his Conduct may be enquired into.[7] I am &c.[8]

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 18, 1783.

Sir: The whole of the official Report of my Lord Stirling respecting the late movement of a Detachment of the Rhode Island Regt into the district of Vermont having been forwarded by me to Congress, the Honble Mr Arnold conceived his reputation in some degree affected thereby, and hath written to me twice on the subject of the Report so far as it related to himself personally. It is therefore my particular direction that you will (with due precautions of secrecy) cause a speedy and pointed compliance to be made with the Request contained in the following

[6] Licut. Abraham Kinney, of the Second Continental Dragoons.

[7] On February 18 Washington wrote to Hazen that he had ordered Kinney's arrest. "You will therefore be pleased to furnish the Judge Advocate with the Charges Against him and Evidence necessary to support them." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

extract of a Letter of the 11th Inst from Mr Arnold, and inform me of the result by as early an opportunity as possible:

I have taken the liberty (says Mr Arnold) to inclose a number of Interrogatories,[9] which I am desirous should be answered in the most explicit manner by Captain Macomber under Oath. And am necessitated to give you the trouble to direct that it be done, as well that you may be informed of what passes on the occasion; to whom the Report was made; as because you can direct it to be done in a manner which shall consist with that secrecy, which the ground of Capt Macombers mission may require.

From the personal knowledge I have of that young Gentleman, who I ever esteem as a person of Probity, I cannot suppose him capable of designing an injury to me, and therefore conclude he has either inadvertently imposed on himself, or has been villainously imposed upon by others, in this affair.

I am &c.[10]

To JAMES McHENRY

February 18, 1783.

Dr Sir: Immediately on the rect. of your Letter to me of the 2d of this Month I ordered an inquiry to be made after the Negro, and have reced the inclosed Letter from Colonel Vose in answer.

Had the Negro been in Camp I should have been happy in restoring him to Mrs. Dulany,[11] as well on account of her own Merit as the pleasure it would have afforded you, to have obliged a Lady who has so clever a Daughter. With great regard etc.[12]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is a considerable time since I received the Letter in which you informed me, it would be impossible for you to

[9] The "Interrogatories" were inclosed in Washington's letter to Olney.
[10] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[11] Mrs. Mary Dulany.
[12] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

return to the Army at the period appointed, on account of your pecuniary and domestic affairs; sympathising deeply in your private distresses I have delayed to recall your attention and presence to your command as long as the circumstances of service, my own personal feelings, and the duty I owe to the public would suffer me to do it. Before the rect of this Letter, you will have learnt my sentiments respecting the duties that are expected of the General Officers of this Army, from a late Order transmitted to you officially by the Adj. General; in addition to that information, I now take the liberty in this private and friendly manner to acquaint you, that in case you wish to retain a command in this Army it will be essential for you to come on immediately prepared to remain with it; as I must make it a point for every Officer who will have the honour of commanding any Corps of Troops in it, to take upon himself the charge and trouble of manœuvring, disciplining and forming that Corps for the Field.

I do not here enter fully into a detail of the reasons which now make it particularly necessary for the Genl Officers who have been long absent to join without loss of time; it will surely be sufficient to mention, that out of nine Generals assigned to the command of the Troops in this Cantonment seven are either actually gone or have made applications to be absent at the same time, so that by gratifying their wishes [(besides incurring public reprehension)] the whole weight of the business, the cares and the troubles of the Army would devolve upon me, until a sunshine occasion, or a prospect of some brilliant operation should induce them to return and share the pleasures and honors of service.

I request you will be so kind as to give me a line in Answer to this by the very next Post, and that you will believe. I am etc.[13]

[13] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, February 19, 1783.

Parole Tunbridge. Countersigns Vallenstown, Willoughby.

For the day tomorrow Major Morrill.[14]

For duty the 1st. Massachusetts regiment.

Brigadier General Dayton will give orders for the Detachment of Jersey troops stationed at Wyoming to join their Line immediately. The ordinance stores and all other articles of Public property which may be at that post will be delivered to such person as shall be authorised by the secretary at war to receive them. Duplicate receipts must be taken, one of which together with a General report of the command will be deposited at Head Quarters by the Commanding officer on his arrival in camp.

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, February 20, 1783.

Sir: Five officers Viz Major Martlett, Captains Paulint,[15] Marna and Caulesage and Lt. Victor, with fourteen Men and nineteen Women, and forty six Children are returned Monthly as Canadian Refugees in fish Kill and its Vicinity and draw Provision from the Public.

The Secretary at War has desired that an Officer might be appointed to examine into the State of these people and as you are on the Spot I am to desire you to undertake this business.

You will therefore be pleased to examine and to report to me the number and condition of these people, with their respective

[14] Maj. Amos Morrill, of the New Hampshire battalion. He served to the close of the war.

[15] Capt. Antoine Paulint, formerly of the Second Canadian Regiment.

Claims to public assistance, so that a judgment may be formed whether all, or which of them, are entitled to the allowance above mentioned. I am &c.[16]

To CAPTAIN WILLIAM MUNSON[17]

Head Quarters, February 20, 1783.

Dr Sir: There can be no difficulty on our part in suffering the Gentlemen[18] you mention to go to the Enemy's out post previous to the receipt of an Ansr from Sir Guy Carleton to their application, unless their should be an objection on the part of the Enemy; who I believe have constantly refused to suffer Persons coming with flags to remain any time at their advanced Posts unless permission had been first obtained for the purpose. I am etc.[19]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, February 20, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Bolton, Coventry.

For the day tomorrow Major Ashley.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Board of General officers appointed in the orders of the 9th. instant whereof Major Genl. Gates is president having taken into consideration that part of the reference which relates to the charges exhibited by Brigadier Genl. Hazen &ca. against Mr. Edwards, Judge Advocate to the Armies of the United States, and reported in the words following vizt. The Board having determined.

[16] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[17] Of the Second Canadian Regiment. He served to June, 1783.
[18] Capt. Samuel West and Peter Mangé
[19] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys A. D. C."

That the first charge vizt. want of abilities and a regular Judicious system in the office and duties of a Judge advocate is not a Military offence cognizable by a Courtmartial, proceeded to the fullest and most minute investigation of the 2d. and 3d. charges, viz want of cander and impartiallity in conducting prosecutions as Judge Advocate in Courtsmartial, and a neglect of duty in the office of Judge advocate, and are unanimously of opinion that neither of them are supported.

The Commander in Chief fully approves the foregoing report.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Friday, February 21, 1783.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Essex, Falmouth.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Cochran.

For duty the 3d. Massachusetts regiment.

At a General Courtmartial held at New Windsor Cantonment December the 30th. by order of his Excellency the Commander in chief, whereof Colonel (now Brigadr. General) Putnam is president, Major James R. Reid of Hazens regiment was tried, charged with disobedience of Orders, unmilitary Conduct and behaving unbecoming the Character of an officer and Gentleman. The following is the specification of the above General Charges, Viz: In support of the charge of unofficer and ungentlemanlike behavior, it is meant to produce a Manuscript from under Major Reids hand exhibited at a public General Courtmartial, called his Defence containing unwarrantable Invectives, Insinuations, accusations and charges of the most infamous nature impeaching the honor and integrity and reputation of a large majority of the officers of the regiment, in a manner which if true would render them unworthy of holding Commissions in the Army.

For neglecting or refusing to prosecute the officers on the Charges which he has impeached them with, altho repeatedly requested by them, who assured him at the same time that they should decline doing duty with him untill an Investigation of the matter should take place, the only means left to justify their injured Characters. For offering himself to doe duty with the Officers whom he had charged as aforesaid without first taking the necessary measures to have them brought to Justice.

Disobedience of Orders and unmilitary Conduct in the following particulars vizt. first for disobedience of the orders of the honorable Major Genl. Lincoln at the head of Elk on the 22d. of November 1781, in his not joining the regiment according to the words, spirit and meaning of the order.

2dly. For disobedience of the orders of his Excellency the Commander in Chief of the 27th. December 1781.

3dly. For disobedience of his Excellencys the Commander in Chiefs Orders of the 10th. January 1782 by his not joining the regiment by the time therein limited.

4thly. Unmilitary Conduct in the disobedience of the three preceding Orders and by not applying to the Commanding officer of the regiment previous to his application to the Commander in Chief for a Furlough, as also by not advising the Commanding officer of the regiment of a true state of the leave granted by the General, and thereby subjecting the Commanding officer of the regiment to make erroneous and unmilitary Musters and Returns. Defrauding the United States or the regiment or a part of the regiment in which he holds a commission, in the particulars hereafter mentioned.

First for making up in his pay rolls and passing in his recruiting accounts on Oath George Devault and Andrew Lucky and receiving public money for them, when it now appears they were never duly inlisted or at any public expence whatever.

2ndly. For unmilitary conduct in giving George Devault and Philip Wolfts, two reputed soldiers of the regiment, Certificates on the 10th. of May 1782, when under confinement and the care of an inferior officer, which amounted to a discharge from the service and release from confinement, altho taken up by General Hazens orders at the expence of the public in consequence of Major Reids own Musters, Returns, Recruiting Accounts on Oath and Inlistments in support of them, deposited with General Hazen as Commanding officer of the regiment.

3dly. On suspicion of his having made false Musters and Returns.

4thly. For witholding a sum of money from a part of the regiment which he has long since acknowledged to have in his possession.

5thly. For unofficer and ungentlemanlike Conduct and Behavior in his official Letters to General Hazen in particular that of the 23d. September 1782.

6thly. For unmilitary Conduct in signing himself Major of the 1st. Battalion Light Infantry when at that time there was no such corps existing in the American Army.

ADDITIONAL

1st. Disobedience of orders in his not joining the regiment in the course of the month of November, agreable to the tenor of General Hazens leave of absence given him at Lancaster on or about the second of the same Month.

2ndly. For embezling or misapplying money received by him to enlist Men into the service of the United States of America, which will appear by his own Pay rolls, Muster rolls, Recruiting accounts, and Certificates, and in not paying a number of the soldiers of the regiment a certain sum of money given him for that purpose in 1779.

3dly. For signing a false Certificate or Certificates relating to the absence of some of the men contained in his late Company.

The Court on mature consideration are of opinion respecting the several charges against Major Reid, That on the first and third particular under defrauding the United States &ca. and the first part of the 2d. additional particular, tho it appears that he made up in his payrolls and recruiting account, Andrew Lucky and George Duvault and received public money for them, when it appears they ought not to have been so made up, yet on full consideration of all circumstances attending the matter it does not appear there was any fraudulent intention in Major Reid in so doing and therefore acquit him of any guilt in either of them. The Court are further of opinion that Major Reid is not guilty and they do acquit him of each and every the other charges against him except the 6th. particular under defrauding the United States &ca. on this they are of opinion that Major Reid did sign himself Major of the first Battalion Light Infantry when there was no such Corps existing in the American Army, and tho they think in some circumstances this might be reprehensible, yet in this case they think it so trifling and that it so strongly marks the nature of the whole prosecution against him, that they think it proper to pass no censure on him.

The Commander in chief confirms the opinions of the Court.

Major Reid is released from his Arrest.

The Court martial whereof Colonel (now Brigadier General) Putnam is president is desolved.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: A few days ago General Lincoln delivered me your favor of the 7th. respecting the Enemy's force at Penobscot,

and the apprehension of the Inhabitants of the eastern part of your State in consequence of the menacing appearances in that quarter, at the same time I recd. a Letter from the two Houses of your Legislature on the same subject.

After conversing pretty fully with the Secretary at War and Mr. Higginson,[20] I have written to the Honble the Senate and Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the following purport; that in the present equivocal state of affairs it was impossible for me to give a decisive answer to their propositions; that Peace on the one hand, or an attempt against New York on the other, might render any Proceedings on this business unnecessary or inexpedient; that the subject of our future military operations is now before Congress; that (if the War should be prolonged) *offensive* or *defensive* Measures would depend on their decision; that in the former case I should be happy to afford every aid in my power to gratify the wishes of the State, so far as could be done consistently with a due attention to the comparative magnitude of the several objects that might be in view; altho I could not conceive an Enterprize ought to be undertaken in that quarter, without a naval force superior to the Enemy's, and that in the latter case, viz, if *defensive* measures only should be adopted, the protection of the eastern frontier of the State would engage my particular attention. This was all I judged it expedient to say under the present circumstances.

Amongst the rumours and speculations on Peace (which are almost infinite) there is nothing that may absolutely be relied upon. And notwithstanding the prospect is so flattering, Yet as no Mortal can tell whether we shall have Peace or War; it is undoubtedly the part of discretion to be prepared for the latter so far as depends on our own exertions. I have therefore called

[20] Stephen Higginson, Delegate to the Continental Congress from Massachusetts.

very earnestly on the General Officers to assist in putting the Army in the best possible condition for activity of Service: but as you will have learnt my sentiments on this matter from the transcript of an Order which has been forwarded to you officially by the Adjutant General, I have only to enquire when I may actually expect the pleasure of seeing you at the Army, and to assure you that I am &c.[21] [MS. H. S.]

To MAJOR JAMES RANDOLPH REID

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Sir: I have recd your favor of this date, and have to inform you that there are some circumstances which render it inexpedient for a furlough to be granted to you at this Moment, in a few days (by the first of March I presume) you may expect the permission you sollicit.

As no Warrants for Pay or Subsistence are now given by me, it will be proper to make your Arrangements on that head with the Depy Pay Mastr Genl in such Manner as that the Money may be properly accounted for. I am etc.[22]

To SAMUEL ADAMS AND TRISTRAM DALTON[23]

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 22, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have been honoured by the hands of Genl Lincoln and Mr. Higginson with the joint address of the Honble the Senate, and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts dated the 8th day of this Month, containing a representation respecting the British Post at Penobscot,

[21] In the writing of David Humphreys.

[22] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[23] President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, respectively.

and the dangerous situation of the eastern frontiers of the Commonwealth; together with some proposals for the defence, or entire liberation thereof from danger.

Ever disposed to give the utmost succour to every part of the United States (which the means entrusted to my care will enable me to do), when invaded or menaced by the Enemy, I can never fail to pay a due consideration to the calls of a State, whose exertions have been so great and meritorious as those of Massachusetts. There are, however, two things in expectation which do at this time prevent my giving any possitive Answer to the propositions in question; and which may, in case either of them should take effect, eventually supersede the necessity of taking any farther Measures on the subject; the first is (the most desireable of all Events) a general Pacification; the second (should the first mentioned Event not happen) is a project for attacking the Garrison of New York with an intention to reduce or exterminate the Enemy by a single decisive effort; should this be resolved on as the most eligible Measure, after the maturest deliberation, it will doubless be conceded on all hands, that, while our Resources ought to be opened for the attainment ofthis object, every subordinate consideration must of course give place to one of almost infinitely greater Magnitude.

But as these Matters are now before Congress, to whom I have had the honor of submitting them, and whose decision respecting offensive or defensive operations, I shall await for the Government of my future conduct; I can only add, that altho I do not conceive how a serious Expedition could, with any prospect of success, be attempted against the Enemy at Penobscot without a Naval co-operation, on account of the heavy expense and consequent impracticability of land transportation for the Artillery, Stores &c; I beg it may nevertheless be understood I

shall always be ready to give my concurrence to any judicious Plans which will contribute to the security of the exposed extremeties of your Commonwealth, whenever the circumstances will admit, and whenever an object of confessedly higher consideration and importance shall not occur to prevent it. In the mean time, should the War be protracted and only defensive Measures adopted; the protection and safety of the eastern frontiers of your State (a territory whose utility is very deeply impressed upon me) will claim and receive my particular attention. With perfect respect, etc.[24]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, February 22, 1783.

Parole Georgia. Countersigns Huntington, Indoston.

For the day tomorrow Major Reading.

For duty the 6th Massachusetts regiment.

In order to extend the weekly allowances of pay to all Non-commissioned officers and privates who may be present with the Army during any part of the time such payment shall be made, altho' they have not been included in the Musters or Pay rolls for the month of January they are (after having been mustered seperately or collectively) to be included in the Weekly Abstracts for pay, and the aggregate of such men are to be annexed to the Pay rolls of the several regiments for the month of January at the conclusion of the payments for that month, with a Certificate from the Inspector that they have been duly mustered for said month. Whenever the rolls are thus made to correspond with the weekly payments, attested Copies are to be lodged at the War office without delay.

[24] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

*To MISS LUCY RANDOLPH[25]

Newburgh, February 23, 1783.

Madam: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th. of last Month, and to inform you that your Letter to Sir Guy Carleton covering one for Mrs. Necks was sent into New York last Week, and that I had a pleasure in doing it.

If, at any time, you should have occasion to write to your Friends in England and will send the Letters under cover to me, I will take care to have them forwarded safely to the extremity of our lines. I pray to make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Randolph. I have the honor etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, February, 23 1783.

Parole Kilmarnack. Countersigns Lancaster, Mountholly.
For the day tomorrow Major Carr.[26]
For duty the 2d. Massachusetts regiment.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, February 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: When you passed the Army in December I believe you was fully impressed with the necessity of furnishing at least one pair of Woolen overalls pr man; the necessity is daily increasing, for the building of the Hutts has almost entirely destroyed their last Years breeches; I must therefore again take the liberty to urge in the strongest terms that a supply of this

[25] Of Wilton, Va.
[26] Maj. James Carr, of the New Hampshire battalion. He served to November, 1782.

Article may be sent on as soon as possible. The Officers are making every possible exertion, to put the old Cloathing into as good a state as it will admit, to give it a tolerably decent appearance. The scarlet Cloth for facings &c will be wanted.

I have repeatedly pressed the sending on a farther Supply of Shirts, so as to compleat each Man to two a principle of œconomy (if there was no other consideration) would induce this, for without a Change, the one Shirt will soon be rotted off their backs.

You mentioned when here that you would furnish me with a Return of the Ordnance Stores on hand in the several Magazines of the United States. I wish to remind you of this. with very great regard etc.

P.S. Your Letter of the 19 inclosing the contracts is received.[27]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, February 24, 1783.

Parole Norway. Countersigns Ohio, Pottsgrove.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Vandyke.

For duty the 8th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Non arrival of the Cloathing expected from Europe renders the gratest Oeconemy in that article doubly necessary. The Commander in Chief therefore recommends that the business of turning and repairing the Coats of last year should now be considered as a primary object, in doing which a certain Model as to the fashion and length (for the coats ought to be made something shorter than at present) will be established by the Commanding officer of the Corps, from which there must be no deviation. Should the men in any instance presume

[27] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

to make alterations in the fashion of their Cloathing according to their own whim and caprice, report is to be made thereof by the Inspector that the want of System and Police in such Corps may be publicly noticed. It is expected scarlet Cloth for Cuffs, Capes and perhaps half facings will be furnished, as the Secretary at war has been pleased to give assurances that he will cause a quantity of that cloth, together with a sufficiency of thread to be immediately forwarded from Philadelphia if possible.

The Commander in Chief flatters himself he shall see the good taste and attention of the officers as beautifully displayed in the present instance as all the military virtues have been on every late occasion.

A communication across the low grounds between the right and left wings of the Army is instantly to be compleated, The Brigadiers and Commanding officers of Brigades will be pleased to meet tomorrow morning eleven o'clock at the Newbuilding to fix upon a plan and take effectual measures for carrying this order into execution. The Genl. conceives a passage might be opened in a more eligible direction than that by which it has already been attempted.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, February 25, 1783.

Parole Quantico. Countersigns Ramapaugh, Sunbury.

For the day tomorrow Major Fish.

For duty the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Contracters for the Army having desired, that agreeably to Contract, a person might be appointed to inspect the Cattle destined for the Army. Henry Wykoff, esquire[28] of

[28] Hendrick Wyckoff.

Fishkill is appointed for that purpose untill the pleasure of the Superintendent of Finance shall be known.

The 2d. York regiment will march on thursday next for the relief of the 4th. Massa. regt. on the Lines.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Dear Sir: It was some time since reported to me that sundry Artillery Stores had been stolen from the Magazines at Kings ferry. The last Officer who was relieved also reports "a barrell of Powder stolen owing to the deficiency of the Magazine."

I wish some enquiry to be made of the Offr. commandg the Artillery into this repeated loss of Stores that measures may be taken to prevent it. I am etc.[29] [MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR ROBERT OLIVER

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. and laid the subject of it, with the several Papers relating thereto before the Commandr in Chief, who thinks the manner in which Sergt Fisher has been so long absent as well as his application for a discharge two or three years after his time of service is said to have expired, are very extraordinary. Before the Genl will undertake to do any thing in the Matter, it will be necessary that the highest possible Evidence should be obtained, not only as to the particular date and term of his Inlistment, but also respecting the reason and permission for his long continued absence. For if it appears that he was ever able to have joined, and neither did that, nor reported himself so as to be continued

[29] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

on the Rolls of the Regt. His Excellency does not consider himself authorized to take any Measures which will entitle him to pay during that absence. I am &c.[30]

To MAJOR MOSES KNAP

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have taken the Commander in Chief's Orders on the subject of your Letter, and have to inform you, that where men indulged with furloughs have not returned, but are struck off the Rolls as deserters, others who would have received leave of absence upon their return, may be furloughed notwithstanding; this is upon a presumption the Commanding Officers of Regts in which such Desertions have happened will be careful to recommend none hereafter, for whose fidelity they cannot absolutely be responsible; should the instances of Desertion in cases of furlough multiply, I am apprehensive the General will put a total stop to the indulgence itself. I am &c.[31]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, February 25, 1783.

Sir: Some complaints having been made respecting the quality of the Beef lately issued to the Troops, and the Contractors (whose conduct has been perfectly satisfactory) haveing solicited, that a Person should be appointed to inspect it in future, previous to delivery. I have therefore this day appointed for this purpose, Majr Henry Wykoff[32] of Fishkill until your pleasure should be known, of which I thought it necessary to advise you by the first opportunity, that he might either continue to

[30] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphreys A. D. C."
[31] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]."
[32] Hendrick Wyckoff.

act with your approbation, or be superseded by the appointment of an Inspector of Contracts as should be judged most eligible and advantageous to the public Service.

[It is incumbent on me to add, that, Majr. Wikoff (who is a refugee from New York) is an entire stranger to me. that he views his appointment as P. T. only; that he was recommended by Mr. Parker (one of the Contractors) who, himself, previous to the appointment, had condemned a large quantity of Beef wch. had been slaughtered and was ready to Issue.] I have the honor &c.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I am favored with your Letter of the 17th. instant. Inclosed is the Copy of a Letter from Mr Comfort Sands, with the Ansr. I have forwarded to him by this conveyance also Colonel Varicks Duplicate Receipts for One thousand Dollars.[33]

*To RICHARD MORRIS[34]

Newburgh, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 15th. Instt. I am sorry you should have given yourself the trouble of accounting so minutely for the delay of Colo. Ogdens Letter to me. The reason, I presume, of his mentioning the matter to you was, that not receiving an answer to it in the time he expected, he wrote me a second Letter referring to the first; upon which, I informed him that the Letter recommended to your care had been long on its passage, and was left by an unknown person (a Soldier I believ'd) at my Office and that this was the cause of the delay on my part. With great esteem etc.

[33] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[34] Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

February 25, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have no objection to your setting out for Boston tomorrow, and heartily wish you a pleasant Journey and safe return.

My Sentiments publicly and privately have been so fully delivered, that I shall say nothing respecting your return.

I do not wish to defeat the end and purposes of your going, by limiting the term of your absence to a shorter period than is necessary to accomplish the business which carries you from Camp; and having a reliance on your prudence and regard to propriety, shall leave you at liberty to extend, if necessary, your absence beyond the 15th of April; as I am perswaded the example of it will not escape your own reflections.

I thank you for your assurances of friendship and Attachment, and am etc.

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Dear Baron: I was favored by the last Post, with the Report of the Board of Officers respecting Captn. Segond's claim of admission into the Legion of Armand; as it appears to be founded in justice and reason it has my entire approbation, and I presume must be satisfactory.

As the prospect of Peace (tho' more promising than it has been at any former period) is somewhat equivocal; I have determined to put the Army, so far as depends on our own exertions,

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On February 25 Washington wrote briefly to Mrs. Richard Bennett Lloyd, informing her that her letters had been sent into New York. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book."

in the most respectable state for active operations, which may be extremely necessary should any Contingency make another Campaign inevitable: to effect this, your presence and assistance will be of the greatest utility, so soon therefore as you can make it perfectly convenient. I shall be happy to see you at the Army; in the mean time I am etc.[35]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am this moment favored with your Letter of the 21 of this Month informing me of the Capture of one of the Enemys Armed Vessels,[36] by a party of Continental Troops detached by you for that purpose. I shall acquaint Congress of this additional exertion of yours to annoy the Enemy and prevent the illicit Trade carrying on with the Country, and I beg you to accept my thanks, and communicate them to the Officers and Men for their conduct in the execution of this business.

You will please to take the necessary measures for distributing the Prize among the Concerned in such manner as you may think most equitable. I am &c.[37]

To JOHN ADAM

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th of Febry. and must take the liberty to tell you candidly, there would not be a propriety in my writing to the President of Congress respecting

[35] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[36] The British armed vessel was the *Three Brothers*. Tallmadge's letter states that the *Three Brothers* was commanded by a Captain Johnstone, but the papers captured state that Capt. Jacob Cornwell was the master. The vessel mounted 11 carriage guns and 4 swivels, had a crew of 21, and was taken off Stratford Point after a brisk fight, in which Captain Johnstone was killed and 3 or 4 of his men badly wounded.

[37] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

your extra expences while acting as Depy. Comy. of Prisoners because it would open a door to innumerable applications because I do not conceive it is proper for me to interfere in the pecuniary Arrangements of Congress, and because I have never known any such allowances to be made except to Majr Generals commanding in separate Departments; but if Congress should think a gratuity in your particular case expedient, I can have no manner of objection to it, being with due regard etc.[38]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 26, 1783.

Sir: I am sorry to have to acquaint your Excellency, for the information of Congress, that a project which I had formed for attacking the Enemys Post at Oswego, as soon as the Sleighing should be good, and the Ice of the Oneida Lake should have acquired sufficient thickness to admit the passage of the Detachment, has miscarried. The report of Colol. Willet, to whom I had entrusted the Command of the Party (consisting of a part of the Rhode Island Regiment and the State Troops of New York, in all about 500 Men) will assign reasons for the disappointment.[39]

Altho the Expedition has not been attended with success, the Officers and Soldiers employed on it, are entitled to great credit, for the Spirit, Activity and patience exhibited by them in the course of the attempt, and I am certain nothing that depended upon Colonel Willett to give efficacy to it, was wanting.

Major Talmadge, whom I had placed on the Sound, with the Infantry of Sheldons Legion, for the purpose of interrupting

[38] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[39] The expedition failed through the ignorance or fault of the Indian guide, who did not bring the troops to Fort Oswego until daylight had come, rendering a surprise impossible. A copy of Willett's letter (February 19) to Washington accompanies this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

as much as possible on that side, the Trade with New York, has been more successful, as will appear by his report, a Copy of which is likewise inclosed.[40] The zeal and activity of Major Talmadge and the promptness and bravery of the party acting under his orders on this occasion, have merited and received my thanks. The Detachments also belonging to the command of Brigr. General Hazen, which are occasionally advanced to Bergen, New Ark, Elizabeth Town &c to intercept the illicit commerce in that quarter, appear to have been very alert, and they have succeeded in several instances. I flatter myself Congress will be persuaded, nothing on my part has been omitted to carry fully into execution their Resolution of the 30th of October last; but at the same time I am under the necessity to declare in my own vindication, that unless the Civil Powers of the different States will adopt the most energetic measures and make the greatest exertions to carry them into effect it will be impossible to put a stop to an evil which has increased to an alarming height and which (notwithstanding all our efforts) is still increasing and I am informed prevails no where in such an uncontrouled manner as on the Sea Coast of Connecticut. I have the honor etc.[41]

To COMFORT SANDS

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

Sir: In reply to your Letter of the 19th inst. I have to observe that the description contained therein of Troops supplied under the Contract for the Moving Army and under the Contract for West Point, is exactly conformable to the idea held up in the

[40] A copy of Tallmadge's letter (February 21) is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

[41] In the writing of David Cobb.

Letter I wrote to you in the Month of April last and in the general Order of April 29th. 1782. But as there was a wilful infraction of that Order on your part, and as (upon my expressing an apprehension that the confounding the issues of the two Contracts might be attended with difficulty in the settlement of accounts) you [declared] in unequivocal terms the matter was perfectly understood and agreed upon between Mr. Morris and yourself; and finally, as that agreement did supersede the Arrangement I had made, I can give no farther explanation, or say any thing more on the subject. I am &c.[42]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

(Private)

Head Quarters, February 26, 1783.

My Dr. Sir: I believe it was mentioned when you was at Head Qrs that Majr Villefrance had made application for promotion. I have declined in this and all similar instances to use my influence directly with Congress to obtain Rank for Gentlemen who solicited it, out of the common course of promotion, because I wished, in the first place that Honble Body might decide according to their own pleasure, and in the second that I might not be harrassed by a multitude of useless and improper applications. Tho' I foresee this may in some degree be the case if Major Villefrance succeeds, yet I cannot conceal my sentiments in his favor (which indeed I have expressed very fully in a Certificate which has been given him) and should not his promotion involve any very troublesome consequences of this kind, I wish with all my heart it might take place. I am etc.[43]

[42] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The word in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[43] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, February 26, 1783.

Parole Taunton. Countersigns Vienna, Walkill.

For the day tomorrow Major Scott.

For duty the Maryland Detachment.

Captain Bushnell being the senior officer, will have the command of the corps of Sappers and Miners untill further orders and Captain Dellezewn[44] of the Corps of Engineers will report to Head Quarters immediately by what authority he came to the Garrison of Westpoint and assumed the Command of the Sappers and Miners.

The Brigadiers and Commanding officers of Brigades having assembled agreeably to the orders of the 24th. instant and reported through the Adjutant General That a communication between the right and left wings of the Army will be best effected by opening a passage a cross the low grounds in a streight direction from the Interval between the 1st. and 3d. Massachusetts Brigades to the interval between the Jersey and York brigades, laying the Swamp with saucissons to be covered with Earth taken from drains made on each side the Causway to carry the water into the Creek.

The Commander in chief approves the plann and requests those Gentlemen may exert themselves in carrying it into execution as expeditiously as possibly and advises putting down two layers of saucissons, the upper covering the intervals between the lower, and both to be well staked down at the ends.

Colonel Gouvion will be pleased to direct an Engineer to measure and stake out the Ground and report the number of feet to be laid with soucissons that the quantity wanted may be

[44] Capt. Joseph(?) de Lazen (Dellezewn). He had been with the southern army.

ascertained and a proportion allotted to each Brigade. The Brigades are nevertheless immediately to set about making Saussicons well bound with seven Bands, twelve feet in the clear between the end bindings and at least one foot in Diameter. The Quarter Master Genl. will on application deliver a proportion of fascine Hatchetts, and ropes or Chains (to compress the Saucissons for tieing) to the Quarter Master of Brigades who will be answerable that they are returned when the work is compleated. When any Brigade has made and collected its quota of saucissons; Colonel Gouvion, on notice given him, will order an Engineer to attend and inspect them, reporting to the Adjutant General the number that are good and conformable to the dimentions prescribed at the same time rejecting such as are insufficient, to be replaced by others that will pass inspection.

The New road between the Adjutant Generals quarters and Commissary Bells,[45] is immediately to be made practicable for Waggons, by removing the Stumps, loose stones and rubbish; and the communication opened from Commissary Bells in as direct a line as possible to the interval between the first and third Massachusetts Brigade; the Quarter Mr. General will appoint a person to superintendent this business who is to be at the place where the tools are deposited at ten o'clock every morning precisely. He is to apply to the Adjutant General for a party for the purpose and report to him when the work is done.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, February 27, 1783.

Parole Andover. Countersigns Barnagat; Colchester.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Col. Comdr. Brooks.

[45] William Bell. He was issuing commissary for the contractors.

For duty the 1st. Jersey regiment.

When ever a regiment is warned for duty on the Lines the regimental Quarter Master or some officer acting for him will precede the regiment one day at least for the purpose of providing convenient quarters on the rout as well as on the Lines without incommoding the Inhabitants more than is absolutely necessary. The regiments returning from the Lines will observe the same rule. The Quarter Master or Officer employed in this business will apply to the Civil authority in the vicinity and the mode pointed out by an act of this state for billitting Troops is to be observed on all ordinary occasions so far as the circumstances of the service will permit; this to be a standing order.

The Board of officers assembled in consequence of the orders of the 29th. ultimo (Major General Baron Steuben President) to enquire into the claim of Captn. Segond to be admitted into the corps of Colonel Armand, report as follows viz.

The Board having considered the Claim of Captn. Segond and the papers handed them in support of it, on the one part: and the objections of Colonel Armand with the papers offered by him on the other part are unanimously of opinion that Captain Segond has not a right to a command in the Legion of Colonel Armand.

The Board are sensible that the Capitivity of Captn. Segond alone, has prevented his being at this moment in the Legion of Colonel Armand, and therefore as his unfortunate situation has thrown him out of command; and as by testimony it appears he has served with reputation in the Corps of the late Count Pulasky, The Board beg leave to recommend him to the consideration of Congress and of his Excellency the Commander in Chief. The Commander in Chief approves the Report.

The Muster and Inspection of the troops in this Cantonment for the Month of February will take place on the following days, vizt.: New Hampshire Brigade the 1st. March; Jersey do. 4th; 1st. and 7th. Massa. regiments, 6th; 4th. and 2d. do. 8th; 5th and 8th do. 10th; 3d. Brigade, 11th; and New York do 20th.

The Garrison of Westpoint will also be Mustered and Inspected on the 13th. 14th. and 15th. of the same month.

The saucissons for the communications between the Lines are to be furnished in the following proportion. Viz:

The Jersey Brigade 620; 1 York regiment 300; 1st. Massa. Brigade 1080; 2d Do. Do. 1080; 3d Do. Do. 710; Hampshire Do. 530; Total 4.320.

Two Pickets of five feet long are to be furnished to each saucisson.

To PELATIAH HAWS[46]

Head Quarters, Newburgh, February 27, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 14th.[47] and in consequence of it have issued a general Order,[48] that whenever a Regt. is ordered for duty on the Lines, the Quarter Master or some Officer in his room will precede the Regt. one day at least, for the purpose of providing convenient Quarters, on the route as well as on the Lines, without incommoding the Inhabitants more than is absolutely necessary. The Qr Mastr or Officer employed on this business will apply to the Civil Authority in the vicinity, and the Mode pointed out by an Act of this State for Billeting Troops is to be observed on all ordinary occasions so far as the circumstances of the service will permit. This to be a standing Order. I hope you will not suffer any farther incon-

[46] Justice of the peace, Westchester County, N. Y., at Peekskill.

[47] Haw's letter recounts that "Last night their was 19 Billeted on me and Before Bedtime they Incresed to above 30." Haw's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[48] Of Feb. 27, 1782.

veniency on this account in future; and that notwithstanding your age and infirmity, you may yet live to see the happy return of Peace and many good days. I am etc.[49]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, February 28, 1783.

Parole Carlisle. Countersigns Devonshire, Essex.

For the day tomorrow Major Oliver.

For duty the 2d. Jersey regiment.

In carrying the Arrangement of the Newhampshire, Rhode Island and New Jersey Lines into effect; all Vacancies are to be considered as filled to the first day of March, in conformity to the Sentiments of Congress expressed on simular occasion, immediate application is to be made to those states, that the promotions may take place and be certified accordingly.

The Generals and Commandants of Brigades and Regimts. are desired to meet the Quarter Master General at eleven o'clock tomorrow at the public building, to consult and establish some more particular Regulations respecting the Sutlers and Markets of the Army.

At the General Court Martial of which Colonel Micheal Jackson is president, Lieutenant Henry Williams[50] of the 2d. regiment of Artillery, was tried, charged with unofficer and ungentlemanlike behavior on the evening of the 6th. of October 1782 "First for asserting a falsehood tending to promote dissention between the 2d. and 3d. regiments of Artillery, by

[49] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On February 27 Washington wrote briefly to Paymaster General John Pierce to inform him "if any Sum was advanced to my order between Feby. and May 1777. to whom; for what sum; and the precise date." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[50] Lieut. Henry Abraham Williams, of the Second Continental Artillery. He served to June, 1783.

saying that *We,* the 2d. regiment of Artillery to a man (addressing himself to Captn. Lieutenant Kemper[51]) do dispise *you* and your regiment, or any thing you can say in behalf of it." 2dly. For stripping to buffet with Captn. Lt. Kemper, and afterwards drawing a sword on him when unarmed. 3dly. For writing a challenge for Captn. Lieutenant Kemper and leaving it in the Bar-room of a public Tavern unsealed.

The Court after maturely considering the evidence for and against Lt. Williams, and his Defence, are of opinion on the first charge, that Lt. Williams did on the evening of the 6th. of October last say that *"We,* the 2d. regiment of Artillery to a man; addressing himself to Captain Lt. Kemper, do dispise you and your regiment, or any thing you can say in behalf of it" for which they think him very unjustifiable, in breach of article 5th. Section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of war. On the 2d. Charge the Court are of opinion that Lt. Williams did on the evening of the 6th. of October last, strip to buffit with Captain Lt. Kemper, and did afterwards draw a sword on him when unarmed, for which Conduct they think him very unjustifiable, in breach of article 5th. section 18th: of the Rules and Articles of war. The Court are also of opinion that the 3d. Charge is not supported. The Court sentence Lt. Williams to be reprimanded in General orders and suspended from service for three months.

The Commander in Chief confirms the sentence.

Lieutenant Williams should have better understood the delacacy of an officers Character than to have suffered himself to have been betrayed into such improper conduct as he has been guilty of.

[51] Capt.-Lieut. Jacob Kemper, of the Third Continental Artillery. He served to June, 1783.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Saturday, March 1, 1783.

Parole Farnham. Countersigns Galway, Haverstraw.

For the day tomorrow Major Trescot.

For duty the first York regiment.

At the General Court Martial of which Colonel Michael Jackson is president, Ensign James Sawyer[52] of the seventh Massachusetts regiment was tried, charged as follows, First "for behaving in a riotous and ungentlemanlike manner, to the subversion of good order and Military Discipline on the evening and night of the 29th. of December last at Lt. Sampsons[53] Quarters, in making a noise at an unseasonable hour of the night and lodging out of his quarters. 2dly. Violently and feloniously breaking open Lt. Sampsons Chest, or opening it with a false key, taking out his property and disposing of it on the evening or night of the 29th. of December last or assisting in doing the same. 3dly. For assaulting Lt. Sampson in a malicious manner in company with Lt. Freeman[54] on the evening of the 4th. of January last, at Lt. Reabs[55] Quarters. 4thly. For endeavouring in an underhanded manner to draw Lt. Sampson from his quarters in order to assault and abuse him, on the evening of the 4th. of January last. 5th. for kicking and abusing Lt. Sampson in Captain Allens[56] quarters, when requested

[52] He was transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to June, 1784.

[53] Lieut. Crocker Sampson, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

[54] Lieut. Thomas Davis Freeman, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

[55] Lieut. George Reab, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[56] Capt. Nathaniel Coit Allen, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

to attend there by Captain Allen, about the 7th. or 8th. of January last.

The Court after properly considering the evidences for and against Ensign Sawyer and his Defence are of opinion upon the first charge that Ensign Sawyer did on the evening of the 29th. of December last make a noise at a late hour and that he did also lodge out of his Hutt the same night, but they do not think his behaviour was either riotous or ungentlemanlike. On the second that it is not supported and also that it is vexatious. On the third and fourth, that they are not supported and on the fifth that Ensign Sawyer is not altogether justifiable in his Conduct towards Lieutenant Sampson at Capt. Allens Quarters. But considering the provocation he had received from Lieutenant Sampson, think proper not to pass any censure on him.

The Commander in Chief confirms the opinion of the Court.

Ensign Sawyer is released from his Arrest.

Captain Aaron Ogden is appointed Major of Brigade to the Jersey brigade vice Cox[57] promoted January 6th, 1783.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 2, 1783.

Parole Kendal. Countersigns Lancaster, Marblehead.

For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs.

For duty the Hampshire regiment.

The Commander in Chief approves the subsequent regulations proposed by the General and other officers who assembled with the Quarter Master General yesterday in consequence of the orders of the 28th. of February, and directs them to be carried into execution.

1st. That there shall be but one Sutler to a Brigade.

[57] Capt. Richard Cox.

2d That a Licence to suttle shall be given only on the joint recommendation of the Commanding officers of the Corps in a Brigade, approved of by the General or officer commanding it.

3d. That the Commanding officer of each brigade shall weekly, or oftner when he thinks it necessary appoint a Committee of officers to examine the qualities and prices of the stores of the Sutlers to the brigade, and report the same to him; that any abuses may be discovered and corrected and that the Commandants of Brigades shall compare these reports and take the necessary measures for preventing thereafter any unequal and unreasonable Charges which on such comparrison shall appear.

4th. That the officers of Police shall daily visit the Sutlers quarters, to discover and report any disorderly practices; which reports shall be by them made to the Commanding officers of their Corps and by the latter to the Commandants of their Brigades.

5th. That no Sutler be permitted to sell any mixed Liquors.

6th. That all Sutlers who shall not be Licensed in the manner above required, be compelled to leave the Army within twenty days after the publication of these regulations on pain of Forfeiting the remaining stores: but during those twenty days to be permitted to sell their stock on hand.

7th. That the regimental paymasters be forbidden to pay the order of any Noncommissioned officer or soldier, unless the same shall be certified by the Commanding officer of his regiment or corps to have been given with his approbation.

8th. That there shall be two Market places; One near the interval between the York and Jersey Brigades, and one near the Public building.

9th. That Wednesday and Saturday in every week be market days, and as such duly Advertised for the information of the Inhabitants.

10th. That all payments of the soldiers wages be made, on Fridays.

The regimental Paymasters will apply to the Deputy Paymaster General for the weekly allowances of Pay for the Non-commissioned officers and soldiers on the following days viz those of the Massachusett Line on Wednesdays. Those of the Newhampshire, New Jersey, New York Lines and Maryland Detachment on thursday's. The Garrison of Westpoint and other corps not above enumerated on Fridays. The payments to commence this week and to be kept up so long as the supply of Cash shall be furnished.

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, March 3, 1783.

Dr. Sir: As it was a matter of question whether Col Antil's family were to be included in the allowance of Provision to Canadian Refugees, a Reference has been made to the Secry at War, who has engaged to give a definitive ansr thereon, this is what has occasioned a demur with the Commissys. The Commander in Chief has now interfered and desired the issues may be regularly made until the further pleasure of the Secry at War shall be known. I have the honor etc.[58]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your several Letters of the 23d. 24th. 25th and 27th of Febry.

[58] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

It gives me great satisfaction to inform you, that I fully approve of your conduct in the late attempt to negotiate the business of your Department with the Enemy.[59]

I am of opinion that giving a Letter of service to Lts Sutherland[60] and Campbell,[61] would be merely eluding the intention of Congress, who by prohibiting the farther liberation of Prisoners, hope to produce a reasonable settlement of our Accounts, which hitherto has been attempted in vain. And as to the obligation General Greene is said to be under to the British for giving a Letter of Service to Major Hyrne,[62] the Gentlemen concerned forget to mention that this debt was rather overpaid by a similar indulgence to Lt Colonel Hamilton.[63]

I am greatly surprised that Mr Skinner did not effect the liquidation of Accounts directed in my Letter of the 4th of July last; and I have now to desire you will, whenever you can make it convenient, proceed to the accomplishment of that business, reporting the same, together with any Accts you may have received, and all other pecuniary Matters to the Superintendt of Finance, whose directions you will receive thereon. This I think is also the best mode of conducting the business respecting the debts incurred by the Officers Prisoners in Canada, as there is I believe but one Officer included in the list you transmitted (viz Ensn Garret) now in service; and the greater part of them having never been in the pay of Continent will have no Monies to receive from the Pay Mastr General.

I have written to Hoaksley[64] on the subject of his Memorial,[65] which with the other Letters for New York I request you will

[59] An exchange of prisoners.
[60] Lieut. Alexander Sutherland, of the British Engineers.
[61] Lieut. Robert Campbell, of the Seventy-first Foot, British Army.
[62] Maj. Edmund Hyrne. He was aide to Gen. Nathanael Greene, and deputy adjutant general, Southern Department.
[63] Lieut. Col. John Hamilton, of the Royal North Carolina Volunteers, British Provincial Troops.
[64] British merchant, at Yorktown, Va.
[65] In the *Washington Papers* under date of Dec. 27, 1782.

forward by Flag; and also receive such Money as Sir Guy Carleton may order to be sent out for Genl Chattelus, and which you will please to have transmitted to the Chevr de la Luzerne. I am etc.[66]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, March 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with your private letter of the 24th Ulto, and thank you for the information contained in it.[67]

It is much to be regretted, that while I am using every means in my power to comply with the orders of Congress, founded, in my judgment, on our true interest and policy, that there should be such a counteraction as we daily experience by individuals. But lamentable indeed is our situation when States, or the Administration of them, are leaping over those bounds which should ever be deemed the sacred barrier betwn. us and the Enemy, without which all opposition to their measures must soon cease. or dwindle into something, ridiculous enough.

That the intercourse with New York by way of the Sound is in a measure without restriction, I have little doubt of; and that the very Boats which are Armed and Commissioned for the purpose of cutting off the Communication, are employed in facilitating the Trade, I have a recent instance of, in one caught by Major Talmadge in the Act, and with the goods on board.

We have only to persevere, and with the means we possess, give all the checks to it in our power. Every Officer who exerts himself in this business will meet every support I can give; and will undoubtedly merit the approbation of Congress.

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[66] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[67] "The people of Connecticut are falling into their [the British] Plans, and I am sorry to say are supported by the Govr. and Executive of the State. . . . People pass, and repass, without interuption and even carry on a trade under sanction of flags (from Govr. Trumbull) thro' the sound."—*Smith to Washington,* Feb. 24, 1783. Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

With respect to the other matters contained in your letter, I have to entreat that you will keep an attentive eye towards them that you may be able to give me the best information respecting them that the nature of the case will admit when required.[68] Let the motives to these enquiries be hid from those about you, and confined to your own breast; I have reasons for giving you this caution, but cannot entrust them to Paper. I am etc.

To ROBERT HOAKESLY

Head Quarters, March 3, 1783.

Sir: Your Memorial respecting the Goods taken from you at York Town, has been received some Time ago. But Majr Genl St Clair, whom you name, who Presided at the Board of Officers, which decided your Case, and to whom I wish to submit the Consideration of the matter now referred to you, having been Absent from Camp during the Winter, has prevented my giving you an earlier Answer. Genl St Clair is now daily expected to join the Army; as soon as he arrives, your papers will be committed to the Consideration of the Gentlemen who formed the other Board, and upon receiving their Opinion, you will be informed of my further Determinations. I am &c.[69]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, March 3, 1783.

Parole Normandy. Countersigns Oneidas, Pompton.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel E Vose.

For duty the Hampshire Battalion.

[68] The other matters were the reported weak condition of the British posts at the north end of York Island; the few troops stationed therein and the few officers on the lines. "Their officers in general are involved in, and attend to the dissipation prevalent in the City."

[69] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

A distribution of the Cloathing now in store is to be made to the Army. the Assistant Cloathier at Newburgh has the Commander in Chiefs instructions on the subject. The regimental paymasters will therefore apply to him without delay.

Accurate Returns to be made to the Assistant Clothier of the men who joined after the distribution of Cloathing was made for the last year, and for whom no regimentals have been since drawn.

When the New Cloathing shall have been delivered to the Light Infantry and other companies pointed out by the Commander in Chief, all their Coats of last year are to be returned to the orders of the Commandant of the Corps who will have them applied towards repairing the Coats of the Battalion companies in such manner as he shall judge most conducive to the comfort of the men as well as the uniformity of their appearance. Exact accounts must be kept of the number and quality of the Coats received; and from whom, also of the uses to which they are applied. Notwithstanding the proposed alteration in the Uniform of the Infantry and Cavalry it appears necessary from inevitable circumstances that all the Light Infantry Companies should be cloathed in blue Coats faced with White untill further orders.

The Noncommissioned officers and Privates of the late 10th. Massachusetts regiment who were annexed to the regiments of that Line. at the Arrangement which took place on the first of January should for reviews at least, be drawn up together on the parade, and it would contribute much to the order and uniformity of the corps, if they could be formed into a company or have their cloathing so transferred as to prevent that disagreable and speckled appearance which two or three regiments at present exhibit.

Altho the General does not urge the business of turning and repairing the Coats to be precipitated before the scarlet cloth

can be obtained yet he wishes every preparation may be made for expediting it as much as possible upon the arrival of the necessary materials; and he hopes the whole may be accomplished by the 15th. of April or the first day of May at farthest.

AFTER ORDERS

The German Recruits now under the Orders of Captain Selin[70] are to be attached to the 2d. and 3d. Regiments of Artillery in such manner as Major General Knox shall direct; he will have officers sent to Newburgh to receive them tomorrow as soon as they shall have been inspected.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, March 4, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 24th of Febry with its Inclosures.

The Capture of the Boats mentioned by you, trading to and bringing Goods from L Island, is very clear; and their Condemnation, as well as of all others taken in like Situation, must be just.

The Case of the Flag, arrived at N Haven, is not expressed with that precision, as to enable me to decide positively respecting her. If she had been received, and suffered to transact her Business, Mr Levensworth,[71] knowing my Orders, is reprehensible for her Admission, and the Flag not subject to Detention; but if ordered to depart, without discharging her business, as comg contrary to Genl Orders, in that Case Mr Levensworth has acted with propriety, and the Boat and Men, under

[70] Capt. Anthony Selin, of the Second Canadian Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

[71] Maj. Eli Leavensworth (Levensworth, Leavenworth), of the Sixth Connecticut Regiment. Heitman states that he retired in January, 1781.

the Circumstances mentioned, ought surely to be detained, the Boat as prize, and the Men as prisoners.

The passing of Flags so frequently to the Eastern States, is a very disagreeable Circumstance, to say the least of it. If the States will permit them, they must risque the Consequences, they have been informed of my Sentiments on the Subject. It is not in my power to prevent every Abuse of that kind. I am &c.[72]

*To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Newburgh, March 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 31st. of Jany. came to my hands the Post before last, and the Acct. from Genl. Lavalette[73] by the last Post. Upon receipt of the latter, your Letter and Lavalettes acct. was sent to Sir Guy Carleton with a request to remit the money to Colo. Smith at Dobbs's Ferry; who is desired to forward it to the Chevr. de la Luzerne at Philadelphia.

You ask what my expectations of Peace are? I answer, I am scarcely able to form any ideas at all on the subject, since I have seen (what is called, for we have no authentic acct. of its being so) the King's Speech; and the variety of contradictory reports respecting the Negociations for it. The Enemy in New York are as impatient, and as much in the dark as we are on this occasion; not having received a Packet for more than two Months. Although I cannot give you a decided opinion, under present appearances, I will transcribe the answer I gave about the first of Jany. to a question similar to yours from a Gentleman of my acquaintance in Maryland; which as matters are yet

[72] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[73] Charles François Chandéon, Chevalier de La Valette, lieutenant colonel Regiment Saintonge, French allied troops. He had been promoted in December, 1781, to brigadier d'infanterie.

undecided, or rather the decision, if any, unannounced, I see no occasion to depart from.

"My opinion of the matter ever since the death of the Marqs. of Rockingham . . ."[74]

What, My dear Sir, could induce the State of Virginia to rescind its assent to the Impost Law? How are the numerous Creditors in Civil life and the Army to be paid if no regular and certain funds are established to discharge the Interest of Monies borrowed for these purposes? and what Tax can be more just or better calculated to this end than an Impost?

The alarm Bell, which has been rung with such tremendous sound by the State of Rhode Island, to shew the danger of entrusting Congress with the Money, is too selfish and feutile to require a serious answer. Congress are in fact, but the People; they return to them at certain short periods; are amenable at all times for their conduct, and subject to a recall at any moment. What interest therefore can a man have, under these circumstances distinct from his Constituents; Can it be supposed, that with design, he would form a junto, or pernicious Aristocracy that would operate agt. himself; in less than a month perhaps, after it was established? I cannot conceive it. but from the observations I have made in the course of this War (and my intercourse with the States in their United as well as seperate capacities has afforded ample oppertunities of judging) I am decided in my opinion, that if the powers of Congress are not enlarged, and made competent to all *general purposes,* that the Blood which has been spilt, the expence that has been incurred, and the distresses which have been felt, will avail us nothing; and that the band, already too weak, wch. holds us

[74] The omitted portion is identical with Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. John Armstrong, Jan. 10, 1783, *q. v.* Washington had written (January 10) to Tench Tilghman, who was in Maryland, the same substance but not the same words as those to Armstrong.

together, will soon be broken; when anarchy and confusion must prevail.

I shall make no apology for the freedom of these Sentiments. they proceed from an honest heart, altho' they may be the result of erroneous thinking. they will at least prove the sincerity of my friendship, as they are altogether undisguised. With the greatest esteem etc. [H.S.P.]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON[75]

Newburgh, March 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of February,[76] and thank you for the information and observations it has conveyed to me. I shall always think myself obliged by a free communication of Sentiments, and have often thought (but suppose I thought wrong as it did not accord with the practice of Congress) that the public interest might be benefitted, if the Commander in Chief of the Army was let more into the political and pecuniary state of our Affairs than he is. Enterprises, and the adoption of Military and other arrangements that might be exceedingly proper in some circumstances would be altogether improper in others. It follows then by fair deduction, that where there is a want of information there must be chance medley; and a man may be upon the brink of a precipice before he is aware of his danger. when a little foreknowledge might enable him to avoid it. But this by the by.

The hint contained in your letter, and the knowledge I have derived from the public Gazettes respecting the non-payment

[75] New York Delegate to Congress.

[76] The original of this letter was removed from the *Washington Papers* and placed with the *Alexander Hamilton Papers* by John C. Hamilton. It is hastily written; and the date, having been written over by Alexander Hamilton, could be either February 13 or 17. John C. Hamilton, Lodge, and Sparks, in his *Letters to Washington*, published this letter under date of February 7.

of Taxes, contain all the information I have received of the danger that stares us in the face on Acct. of our funds, and so far was I from conceiving that our Finances was in so deplorable a state *at this time* that I had imbibed ideas from some source or another, that with the prospect of a loan from Holland, we should be able to rub along.

To you, who have seen the danger, to which the Army has been exposed, to a political dissolution for want of subsistence, and the unhappy spirit of licentiousness which it imbibed by becoming in one or two instances its own proveditors, no observations are necessary to evince the fatal tendency of such a measure; but I shall give it as my opinion, that it would at this day be productive of Civil commotions and end in blood. Unhappy situation this! God forbid we should be involved in it.

The predicament in which I stand as Citizen and Soldier, is as critical and delicate as can well be conceived. It has been the Subject of many contemplative hours. The sufferings of a complaining Army on one hand, and the inability of Congress and tardiness of the States on the other, are the forebodings of evil, and may be productive of events which are more to be deprecated than prevented; but I am not without hope, if there is such a disposition shewn as prudence and policy will dictate, to do justice, that your apprehensions, in case of Peace, are greater than there is cause for. In this however I may be mistaken, if those ideas, which you have been informed are propagated in the Army should be extensive; the source of which may be easily traced as the old leven, *it is said,* for I have no proof of it, is again, beginning to work, under a mask of the most perfect dissimulation, and apparent cordiallity.

Be these things as they may, I shall pursue the same steady line of conduct which has governed me hitherto; fully convinced that the sensible, and discerning part of the Army, cannot be

unacquainted (altho' I never took pains to inform them) of the Services I have rendered it on more occasions than one. This, and pursuing the suggestions of your Letter, which I am happy to find coincides with my practice for several Months past and which was the means of directing the business of the Army into the Channel it now is, leaves me under no *great* apprehension of its exceeding the bounds of reason and moderation, notwithstanding the prevailing sentiment in the Army is, that the prospect of compensation for past Services will terminate with the War.

The just claims of the Army ought, and it is to be hoped will, have their weight with every sensible Legislature in the Union,[77] if Congress point to their demands; shew (if the case is so) the reasonableness of them, and the impracticability of complying with them without their Aid. In any other point of view it would, in my opinion, be impolitic to introduce the Army on the Tapis; lest it should excite jealousy, and bring on its concomitants. the States cannot, surely, be so devoid of common sense, common honesty, and common policy as to refuse their aid on a full, clear, and candid representation of facts from Congress; more especially if these should be enforced by members of their own Body; who might demonstrate what the inevitable consequences of failure will lead to.

In my opinion it is a matter worthy of consideration how far an Adjournment of Congress for a few Months is advisable. The Delegates in that case, if they are in Unison themselves, respecting the great defects of their[78] Constitution, may represent them fully and boldly to their Constituents. to me, who know[79] nothing of the business which is before Congress, nor of the Arcanum, it appears that such a measure would tend to promote

[77] The draft has "United States."
[78] The draft has "our."
[79] "Know" is supplied from the draft.

the public weal; for it is clearly my opinion, unless Congress have powers competent to all *general* purposes, that the distresses we have encountered, the expence we have incurred, and the blood we have spilt in the course of an Eight years war, will avail us nothing.

The contents of your letter is known only to myself, and your prudence will direct what should be done with this. With great esteem etc.[80]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Tuesday, March 4, 1783.

Parole Quarterly. Countersigns Roxbury, Salisbury.
For the day tomorrow Major Knap.
For duty the 3d. Massachusetts regiment.

[80] From the *Alexander Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

In Madison's "Notes of Debates in the Continental Congress," under Feb. 20, 1783 (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, L. C. Edn., vol. xxv, p. 906), Hamilton and Richard Peters informed the company met at Thomas FitzSimons' "that it was certain that the army had secretly determined not to lay down their arms until due provision and a satisfactory prospect should be afforded on the subject of their pay; that there was reason to expect that a public declaration to this effect would soon be made; that plans had been agitated if not formed for subsisting themselves after such declaration; that as proof of their earnestness on this subject, the Commander was already become extremely unpopular, among almost all ranks from his known dislike to every unlawful proceeding, that this unpopularity was daily increasing and industriously promoted by many leading characters; that his choice of unfit and indiscreet persons into his family was the pretext and with some the real motive; but the substantial one a desire to displace him from the respect and confidence of the army in order to substitute Genl. [erased and illegible] as the conductor of their efforts to obtain justice. Mr. Hamilton said that he knew Genl. Washington intimately and perfectly, that his extreme reserve, mixed sometimes with a degree of asperity of temper, both of which were said to have increased of late, had contributed to the decline of his popularity; but that his virtue his patriotism and firmness would it might be depended upon never yield to any dishonorable or disloyal plans into which he might be called; that he would sooner suffer himself to be cut to pieces; that he, (Mr. Hamilton), knowing this to be his true character, wished him to be the conductor of the army in their plans for redress, in order that they might be moderated and directed to proper objects, and exclude some other leader who might foment and misguide their councils; that with this view he had taken the liberty to write to the Genl. on this subject and to recommend such a policy to him."

Those men who have given orders for the full pay of the month of January, with the approbation of their Commanding Officers, are not to be included in the Weekly Abstracts; they are only to be comprehended in the pay rolls of that month and settled with from them.

Immediately previous to every payment of the Noncommissioned officers and privates; The Arms, Accoutriments, Cloathing and other articles of public property in their possession are to be minutely inspected, that in case of negligence or deficiency proper stoppages may be made This to be considered as a standing regulation.

All persons possessing due Bills given under the late Contract of Wadsworth and Carter are requested to present them to Mr. Jonathan Trumbull at Mr. Cases[81] in New-Windsor before the 10th. instant Such as are not presented before that day will be paid on the first day of April by Melancthorn Smith Esqr. & Company at Newburgh.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: Your several favors of the 28th feby and 1st March have been received and I am happy to hear that your detachments are so fortunate in their exertions to prevent the illicit Trade carrying on between the Inhabitants and the Enemy.

The Judge Advocate shall have orders to prosecute Mr. Kinney[82] and to call for the evidence in support of the prosecution.

If the business you mention is such, as requires your communicating it in person I have no objection to your coming to this place. I am &c.[83]

[81] Stephen(?) Case.
[82] Lieut. Abraham Kenney.
[83] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of the 19th of Febry. announcing the failure of your Attempt against Oswego.

Unfortunate as the Circumstance is, I am happy in the persuasion that no Imputation or reflection can justly reach your Character, and that you are enabled to derive much Consolation from the animated Zeal, fortitude and Activity of the Officers and Soldiers who accompanied you. The failure, it seems, must be attributed to some of those unaccountable Events, which are not within the controul of human Means and which, tho' they often occur in military life, yet require not only the fortitude of the Soldier, but the calm reflection of the Philosopher, to bear.

I cannot omit expressing to you the high Sense I entertain of your persevering Exertions and Zeal on this Expedition; and begging you to accept my warm Thanks on the Occasion; And that you will be pleased to communicate my Gratitude to the Officers and men under your Command, for the Share they have taken in that Service. With much Esteem etc.[84] [M.L.]

To CAPTAIN JAMES DUNCAN

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 3d of this Month.

When General Hazen answered my Letter to him on the subject of your Complaint he preferred no charge against you of any kind but only gave his reasons for arranging the Officers in the manner he had done, and of which you complained.

[84] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

As the Regiment was to be reduced to the same Establishment as the rest of the Army, I did not think proper to make any alterations till that event should take place, which will now be very soon and previous to it, a board of Officers shall be assembled to examine and fix your rank as well as that of all the Officers, so that no Injury may be done to any of them in the new Arrangement.

Your Complaint of being continued at the block house the whole Winter and without a Subaltern, shall be inquired into when General Hazen comes here which I expect will be in the course of two or three days. I am &c.[85]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, March 5, 1783.

Parole Tunbridge. Countersigns, Versailles, Wapping.

For the day tomorrow Colonel H. Jackson.

For Duty the 6th. Massachusetts regiment.

At the General Courtmartial whereof Colo. Micheal Jackson is president the following soldiers were tried viz. Henry Burk of the 6th. Massachusetts regiment. For desertion, found guilty in breach of Article 1, section 6th. of the rules and articles of war, and sentenced to receive One hundred lashes on his naked back. Richard Joel of the 2d. Massachusetts regt., for Desertion; found guilty of a breach of Article 1. sect. 6. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentenced to have his honorary Badges taken off by the Drum Major at the head of the regiment and receive fifty lashes on his naked back. Christopher Schoonover of the 2d. Jersey regiment. For reinlisting in the 5th. Massachusetts regt. found not guilty and therefore acquitted. John

[85] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Edwards of the 2d. Hampshire regiment, also Noah Allen of the same regiment. "For Desertion, found Guilty of a breach of Article 1st. section 6th. of the Articles of war, but in consideration of the General orders of the 6th. of February 1783 they viz Edwards and Allen, are acquitted.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing sentences, and directs them to be carried into execution at such time as the Commanding officers of the regiments to which they belong may think proper.

To JONATHAN ARNOLD

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 11 february.

The detail I gave in my Letter to you of the 5 february respecting the transmission of Cap McCombers report was not occasioned by any thing contained in your Letter, but only from a wish that my proceedings in the matter might be perfectly understood by you.

I now inclose you Copy of the Answers of Capt. McComber to the interrogatories you was pleased to put to him thro' me.[86] I have the honor &c.[87]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 24th febry.

[Circumstanced, as our Affairs are], it is impracticable for me, to comply with your request, for a Body of Continental

[86] Macomber's answers are in the *Washington Papers* under date of Feb. 27, 1783.
[87] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Troops to be stationed at Stamford: some Aid, however may be given to your State Troops, by the Countenance [and increase] of our marching parties, who are patroling on the Lines, and may extend as far as the Sound. I will give orders for this purpose, and that the Officers on that Command shall hold Communication with Colo Canfield, or other Commandg Officer of the State Troops; and afford them all the necessary Assistance, in their power, as Circumstances may require.

On this Occasion, I cannot omit to mention to your Excellency, that I am informed of a very unwarrantable Trade and Intercourse with the Enemy, from Western Shores of your State. [In which the Commissioned Vessels are instrumental, and Flags are Prostituted]; particularly in transportg a cross the Sound, great Quantities of provisions; meat and Bread, in open Day, without Interuption; and, that, as I am told, almost under the Eye of your Officers and Troops Stationed in that Quarter; in which Business, it is to be feared, your Commissioned Boats and Vessels, are not exempted from bearing a part. Are there no practicable means of preventing these shamefull Abuses? or is the Measure tolerated by the State?

The frequent[88] Indulgences given, as I am informed, to Flags, to pass in the Sound, to and from N York, in a great measure serve, not only to frustrate the beneficial Effects I expected to experience from fixing on Dobbs Ferry as the only place of intercourse of that kind with the Enemy; but are, I fancy, prostituted to the vile purposes of extendg that illicit Trade with them, which, in my Opinion, it should be the Care of the State to prevent, by every possible Means. I have the Honor etc.[89]

[88] At this point the draft has the following variation, "passing of Flags, which are indulged in by the Eastern States not only."

[89] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling is followed.

*To JOHN PIERCE

Newburgh, March 5,[90] 1783.

Sir: I am about revising my Accts. with the public from the beginning, in order to make a thorough digest of them for Settlement.[91]

In going over them, I find I have given credit for some advances with which I am not charged in the Acct. you sent me last; particularly 1000 Dollars paid to Colo. Tilghman Decr. 10th. 1781, and the like sum to Lt. Colfax the 7th. of Feby. following. On the other hand, it is not impossible but that I may have omitted credits which ought to have been given; I beg therefore you will let me know with precision the whole amount from *all the Offices,* of Monies charged to me, or others for my use, that I may be able to comprehend and draw the whole into one point of view.

I wish to know also, whether Genl. McDougall stands charged with a Sum in Specie in your Books, the Treasury Books, or Registers Office, with a Sum in Specie for Secret Services between the first of Jany. and middle of March 1779; and if such charge should appear, to what amount, and to whom paid for his use. This information is necessary in the liquidation of my Accts.

On the 27th Ulto. I requested to know whether I stood charged with any sum in your Books "between Feby. and May 1777; to whom it was paid, for what Sum, and the precise date." I pray you to give me answers to these points by the first Post after this letter reaches you. I am etc.[92]

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[90] The draft, also in the writing of Washington, is dated March 3.

[91] This "digest" was forwarded to the Treasury July 1, 1783.

[92] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York City.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM PACA

Head Quarters, March 5, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 21st of Febry, respecting the Depredations committed by the Enemy in the Chesapeak Bay; and have taken the Liberty to transmit a Copy of your Letter to Sir Guy Carleton. If the British Commander in Chief shall think proper to make me a Reply, his Sentiments shall be communicated to your Excellency as early as possible.

However to be lamented, such practices are, which you mention, yet I have reason to fear that similar Ones have been but too frequent on both Sides, and that Sir Guy may take this Occasion to enter into particulars of recrimination. For my own part, I sincerely wish, for the honor of humanity, that these Acts of uncivilized War, might wholly cease on either part

This being the first Occasion I have had to address your Excellency, I cannot omit to present you my warmest Congratulations on your Appointment to the Chief Seat of Government; a Circumstance, which, at the same Time that I assure myself it will prove very honorable to yourself, I am persuaded, will have a happy Influence on the State over which you preside, as well as upon the general Welfare of the United States. I am &c.[93]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, March 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is represented to me, that Capt. Day, of the 7th Massachusetts Regiment, is now, not only able to attend to his

[93] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 3 Washington wrote briefly to Sir Guy Carleton, forwarding Governor Paca's letter. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Duty in Camp, but that, his long absence, is considered in an unfavorable point of Light, by the Inhabitants in the part of the Country where he resides. As you will remember, the Appointment of Capt. Day to superintend and muster the Recruits at Springfield, was made in Consequence of his being supposed unfit for any Duty with the Army, I must request you to take the Trouble to examine into the State of facts; and if you should find he is capable of Service, that you will Order him to be relieved, and join his Corps immediately, unless you shall judge it is unnecessary to continue an Officer much longer at the post of Springfield to receive recruits, in which Case it would be hardly worth the Trouble of relieving him; and you will please therefore to give directions for him to repair to the Army, at some fixed Time, which should be as early as you think he can be dispensed with from the Mustering Service. I am etc.

PS. The Seal of this was broken to acknowledge the Receipt of yours of 22d feby. just now come to hand Colo Vose will give you all the Intelligence we have.[94] [MS.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, March 6, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Belfast, Calais.

For the day tomorrow Major Graham.

For duty the 1st. Massachusetts regimt.

AFTER ORDERS

Two Lime burners from each brigade to be sent to the public building tomorrow morning ten o'clock. They are to be employed in erecting a Kiln and burning Lime for finishing the building.

[94] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, March 7, 1783.

Parole Devonshire. Countersigns Essex, Frederick.

For the day tomorrow Major Morrill.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

At the General Courtmartial of which Colol. Micheal Jackson is president, Lieutenant Thomas D. Freeman of the 7th. Massachusetts regiment was tried "For riotous and ungentlemanlike behavior and for violently and feloniously breaking open Lt. Sampsons Chest, or opening it with a false Key, taking out his property and disposing of the same on the evening or night of the 29th. December last. For attempting to assinate Lt. Sampson on the evening of the 4th. of January last; and assaulting him in an ungentlemanlike and most malicious manner; also for breaking his Arrest.

The Court acquit Lt. Freeman of the several Charges exhibited against him.

The Commander in chief approves the sentence.

Lieutenant Freeman is released from his Arrest.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 7, 1783.

Sir: While applications are making in favor of others, I cannot refrain from mentioning to Congress, the Case of Colo Armand, with respect to promotion. Justice to that Gentleman, obliges me to express the Esteem I have of him, as an intelligent, active and very deserving Officer; one who has been zealous in the Service of the United States, and who, I am persuaded, has expended considerable Sums for the Establishment

of his Corps and other ways, for which he probably[95] will not be reimbursed for some time, if he expects ever to be refunded.

I take particular pleasure in pointing the Attention of Congress to Colo Armand, as his Character and Merits have gained my Respect; and his promotion, I think, may take place without Inconvenience, he [being among the oldest Colonels in the Service of the United States, and belonging to no district of them, never can be provided for under the] late Regulations for promotion adopted by Congress. With great Respect etc.[96]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 7, 1783.

Sir: Repeated Applications have been made to me, in favor of Major Villefranche, and Capt L'Enfant, of the Corps of Engineers, for their individual promotion; and being again pressed upon me, by Major Genl Duportail, I take the Liberty, thro your Excellency, to submit to Congress, whether some general principles of promotion, applicable to this Corps, as well as others in the Army, might not be established, which may prevent the necessity of particular applications, and the Embarrassment of giving promotion out of its common Course.

The Gentlemen mentioned, are furnished with my Certificates, expressive of the Ideas I have entertained of their individual Merits and Services; which are such as, in my opinion, would entitle them to promotion, should Congress judge it

[95] The draft has the following, at this point, in the writing of Washington, "will be a considerable time out of if he."

[96] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, which ends "the Odinance of the of last."

Washington inclosed this letter to Congress in a brief note to Colonel Armand, dated March 7, under a flying seal, that Armand might read and forward it. "If it shall prove of any Service to you, It will afford me very particular Satisfaction." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

can be done upon consistent principles, and such as will not involve future Inconvenience. Their own Memorials, which I expect will be presented to Congress, will shew the Claims of the Gentlemen entertain from the length of their Services.

I have the Honor etc.[97]

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE[98]

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief is clearly of opinion, that under the peculiar circumstances of the R Island Regt. the full amount of subsistence for all the Officers of it, ought to be paid for the month of March. I am etc.[99]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Women of the New York Regt. of Artillery have applied to me on the Subject of allowing them and their Children Provisions.

The number of Women and Children in the New York Regiments of Infantry before the new System of Issues took place obliged me, either to depart from that System and allow them provision or by driving them from the Army risk the loss of a number of Men, who very probably would have followed their Wives. I preferred the former and accordingly directed that the whole of the Women and Children then with the Troops, should be allowed to draw as usual. So far as the Artillery Regimt. was under the same circumstances they are entitled to the same indulgence: but as that indulgence was to

[97] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[98] Deputy Paymaster General.
[99] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

remedy, and not to create, an evil, I would by no means extend it to Women who on the prospect of it, have since been brought into Camp; and I would wish you to see that no such do draw Provisions. I am etc.[1] [MS. H. S.]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, March 8, 1783.

Sir: Very painful Sensations are excited in my Mind by your Letter of the 27th. of Feby. It is impossible for me to express to you the Regret, with which I received the Information it contains.[2]

I have often reflected, with much Solicitude, upon the disagreeableness of your Situation and the Negligence of the several States, in not enabling you to do that Justice to the public Creditors, which their Demands require. I wish the Step you have taken, may sound the Alarm to their inmost Souls, and rouse them to a just Sense of their own Interest, honor and Credit. But I must confess to you, that I have my fears, [for as danger becomes further removd from them] their feelings seem to be more callous to those noble Sentiments, with which I could wish to see them inspired, mutual Jealousies, local prejudices, and misapprehensions have taken such deep Root, as will not easily be removed.

Notwithstandg the Embarrassments which you have experienced, I was in hopes that you would have continued your Efforts to the Close of the War, at least; but if your Resolutions are absolutely fixed, I assure you I consider the Event, as one of the most unfortunate that could have fallen upon the States, and most sincerely deprecate the sad Consequences which I fear will follow. The Army, I am sure, at the same Time that

[1] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[2] The resignation of Morris as Superintendent of Finance.

they entertain the highest Sense of your Exertions, will lament the Step you are obliged to take, as a most unfortunate Circumstance to them. I am &c.[3]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, March 8, 1783.

Parole Goshen. Countersigns Hartford, Islington.

For the day tomorrow Major Ashley.

For duty the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

All officers and soldiers are requested to use their endeavours to prevent fires from spreading over the Country contiguous to the Cantonments, in case of any accidental communication of fire, Commanding officers of the nearest regiments or Brigades will be pleased to order out their corps and have the flames extinguished immediately: so as to prevent the distruction of the neighbouring Fences and woods.

The Quarter Master General will settle with Major General Knox the manner in which two packet Boats shall ply daily between the Village of Newburgh and the Garrison of Westpoint, in order to accomodate all Gentlemen of the Army who may have occasion to pass by Water, from the Cantonments to the Garrison, or from the Garrison to the army. This will superscede the necessity of drawing men from the Line, and attaching them to the boats or barges of any particular officers.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 9, 1783.

Dr Sir: The Commander in Chief desires you will send in to N York the Naval Prisoners forwarded to you by the Adjt Genl

[3]The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

and have proper Rects taken for them; unless there should be a Commissy of Marine Prisoners at Dobb's Ferry who will in that case negociate the business. Pray inform us whether there is such a Commisy residt there or not. I am etc.[4]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, March 9, 1783.

Parole Kingston. Countersigns London, Mindon.

For the day tomorrow Major Porter.

For duty the 2d Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in chief having yesterday observed Lt. Bradford[5] of the 7th. Massachusetts regiment marching a Guard in a very irregular and unmilitary manner thinks proper to give him this public admonition to be ware of such conduct in future; and at the same time to signify to the whole army that he is resolved no irregularity which comes to his knowledge shall pass unnoticed.

The Serjeant and sentinel accused of robbing the Clothiers store are to be brought to tryal instantly and the proceedings reported as soon as possible to Head Quarters.

The General Courtmartial of which Colonel M. Jackson is president will assemble for the purpose tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

*To JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM

Newburgh, March 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 21st. Ulto. and beg your acceptance of my particular acknowledgments for the honorauble and flattering manner in which

[4] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A D C."

[5] Lieut. Andrew Bradford. He served to April, 1783.

you have spoken of me, in the dedication to your Oration, delivered before our Brethren at Providence.

The Sentiments which you have expressed in your Oration[6] I have read with pleasure, and am with great esteem etc.

*To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Newburgh, March 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: The honor of your favor, dated, the 26th. Ult, inclosing the resolves of Congress of the 20th. preceding, and a state of the Negociations for a general pacification (when your last advices were dated) came duly to hand; and I thank you for the information, and your observations thereon.

The present state of suspence, in which we are held with respect to Peace or War is not more irksome than it is unaccountable; unless the detention of the Cadiz Fleet, giving more time for mænuvring, has inspired hope in some of the contending parties of bettering their terms; especially on the part of Great Britain on whom I suppose the treaty will bear hardest.

Mrs. Washington unites her compliments and best wishes with mine, to Mrs. Livingston, and the other ladies of your family. I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose you a return of the Canadians who are drawing Provisions in this Department from the Public,

[6] "An | Oration: | delivered in | The Episcopal Church in Providence (Rhode-Island) | Before the | Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of | Free and Accepted | Masons, | On the American Festival of St. John the Evan- | gelist, December 27, 1782, | . . . | Providence: Printed by John Carter. |" From a pamphlet which is in the *Washington Papers.*

and as it falls to my lot to sign their provision returns I will be much obliged to you for some directions respecting them; there seems something improper in their present manner of drawing; you will observe that some draw one and a half two and three Rations each for themselves besides drawing for their families; is this right? or are they all to be considered alike, as refugees, and draw only one ration each agreably to the Resolve of 10 November 80. Boileau,[7] Guilmat[8] and ferriol[9] have your Particular order, on which they draw Subsistence money and do not draw Provision.

When the Abstracts for extra issues made here come before you you will observe that the greatest part of those issues should have been included in the Regimental abstracts. The Men drawn for by Genl. Howe and Hand particularly the Men belonged to many different Regiments and being included in one Voucher, no individual Commanding Officer would certify for his Men because the Voucher could not be left with him as the Certificate expresses, this obliged their being thrown into the abstract for extra issues. Some of the other issues in those Abstracts appear to have been improper and the Genl has ordered an enquiry into them. With great respect etc.[10]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellencys Letter of the 6th. instant, has been communicated to the Quarter M Genl, with Directions, that

[7] Pierre Amable Boileau. He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and had retired in January, 1782.

[8] Francis Guilmat (Gilmant, Gilman). He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and had been omitted in May, 1782.

[9] Alexander Ferriol. He was formerly a lieutenant in the Second Canadian Regiment, and was retired in January, 1782.

[10] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

he should take such Measures as are in his power, to comply with Mrs. Jones's request.[11]

In Consequence of this Colo Pickering has forwarded a Copy of your Excellys Letter to Mr Morris, whose Instructions relative to the matter, he wishes to obtain. With great Regard etc.[12]

[H. L.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, March 10, 1783.

Sir: In Answer to a Letter written by the Comr in Chief a Week or two ago (several havg been written before on same Subject) to the Secty at War, respectg the Standards for the Army. The followg reply has been made.

"The Standards are in the Hands of the Q Master at Camp, and have been there for some Time." The Commander in Chief requests your Explanation of this Matter.[13] Yours &c.[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, March 10, 1783.

Parole Norway. Countersigns Ostend, Poland.

For the day tomorrow Major Lansdale.

For duty the 8th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in Chief recommends Uniformity in the mode of wearing the hair, either cut short or tied in a simular manner in the several regiments or corps should be attended to, so far as the circumstances will admit. Nothing can add

[11] Mrs. Margaret Jones, stepmother of Dr. John Jones, of Bellemont, N. Y., had requested reimbursement for damage done her timberlands by the Army.

[12] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[13] Pickering answered the same day (March 10) that the standards came to the store at camp in a box with other articles. The field commissary of military stores removed the other articles "but left the standards, saying he would send for them: however, there they are yet." Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[14] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Jo T—ll Jr."

more to the elegance of appearance in any body of men than a pointed compliance with this recommendation; On the contrary nothing would have a more awkward and disagreable effect than negligence in this Article. at present there is a great difference to be observed among the various corps of the Army.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 11, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with your several Letters of 26th feby. 1st, 4 and 4th of March.

I know no Objections to the Arrangement of the Virginia Line, as transmitted to me from your Office. It has my Approbation, and may pass into Record.

Whatever of Cloathg can be obtained for the Army, I wish to have forwarded with as much Dispatch as possible. Mr Morris, knowg your Circumstances, and his own Abilities or rather Disability to satisfy the numerous Demands upon his Office, must be his own Judge, how far he can comply with our Wants. I wish you to urge the Request of the Army, so far as his Situation, and our necessities (which you know are exceedgly great) will justify. I am loth to press him myself.

Colo Armands Corps will be of no use at present on the North River, and it would be extremely difficult and expensive to support them here. I do not think therefore of complying to the Suggestion of the Baron for their moving this Way at this Moment; unless it should be found that their Supplies could be obtained with less Expence to the Public, at Burlington, or some other place in the Jersies, than where they now are, and you should think proper, for that Reason, to remove them; in which case I have no Objection to your Ordering them to such Situation: where they would be at hand on a

Short Notice to be called to the Army, should Circumstances require it.

The Standards, I have found, by examining, to be in the Care of Mr. Frothingham,[15] F. C. of Military Stores. Your Intimation in your last, was the first Notice, I had, of their being near me. I am &c.[16]

AUTHORIZATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO WILLIAM SHATTUCK

Head Quarters, March 11, 1783.

Whereas Congress by their Resolutions, have especially authorized and requested me, to take such measures as I shall think proper to apprehend and secure Luke Knowlton and Samuel Welles, two persons supposed to be within the Territory called Vermont, and who are charged with high Crimes and misdemeanours against the United States of America.

You are therefore hereby authorized and impowered, to use your diligent Endeavours, in such way as shall be thought proper to secure and apprehend the said Knowlton and Welles, [or either of them], and him safely keep, that they may be conveyed to Congress. Taking Care, that in the Execution of such measures as you shall adopt, no means shall be used that may tend to excite or procure any general Commotions, Broils, or Contentions among the People of said Territory, or any of the Inhabitants of these United States.

And all Officers civil and military are hereby requested to aid and Assist the said Wm. Shattuck in such reasonable and proper Measures as may be adopted by him, for the apprehending, safe keeping and conducting the said Knowlton and Welles, or either

[15] Richard Frothingham.

[16] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of them [to the Hd. Qrs.] of the Army; that they may be delivered over to the Orders of Congress, to be dealt with as they shall judge proper.[17]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, March 11, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Richmond, Sunbury.

For the day tomorrow Major Reading.

For duty the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in Chief having heard that a General meeting of the officers of the Army was proposed to be held this day at the Newbuilding in an anominous paper which was circulated yesterday by some unknown person conceives (altho he is fully persuaded that the good sense of the officers would induce them to pay very little attention to such an irregular invitation) his duty as well as the reputation and true interest of the Army requires his disapprobation of such disorderly proceedings, at the same time he requests the General and Field officers with one officer from each company and a proper representative of the staff of the Army will assemble at 12 o'clock on Saturday next at the Newbuilding to hear the report of the Committee of the Army to Congress.

After mature deliberation they will devise what further measures ought to be adopted as most rational and best calculated to attain the just and important object in view. The senior officer in Rank present will be pleased to preside and report the result of the Deliberations to the Commander in Chief.

Congress have been pleased to promote Captain Job Sumner of the 3d Massachusetts regiment to be a Major in the Army and to take rank from the 1st. of October 1782.

[17] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his abbreviations are here followed.

The 3d. Massachusetts Regiment will march on thursday next to the relief of the 2nd. York regiment on the Lines.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, March 12, 1783.

Parole Tortola. Countersigns Village, Walpole.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Vandycke.

For duty the Maryland Detachment.

When Guards, fatigue men or other parties are to draw provisions, and are so situated as that they cannot draw in their regiments, the officer who is to draw for them must sign a seperate Return for the men of each particular regiment, in order that those returns may be lodged with the Commanding officers of the regiments, to compare with the Abstracts they are to certify, and where the Commanding officers find any improper returns made for men of their regiments, the officer who signed such Return must be reported at Head Quarters, or otherwise called to account, as circumstances may require, agreeably to the system for issuing Provisions.

The Contractors are not to issue to Soldiers out of their Regiments, but on such returns as are above mentioned except when the Commander in Chief shall direct otherwise.

There will be a Quarter Master of the day whose duty in General shall be as directed in the Orders of the 7th. of September last.

There will also be a Captain of the day who is generally to superintend the Police of their respective Brigades, they are particularly to visit the Barracks of the Noncommissioned officers and soldiers, to see that the floors are swept, the Beds kept decent and bedding aired when the weather will admit of it, the utensills clean and in their proper places, the Messes regular the provision well cooked and served up in due season. They

are also to visit the Brigade and Quarter Guards, see that the Guards are attentive to their duty and that the guard houses are clean.

They are to report to the Field officer of the Day and assemble every morning at the Newbuilding for that purpose.

The Field officer of the day will visit the Provost of the Army, see that it is kept clean and in good order, and deliver a Return of the prisoners with the Report of the day.

No officer or noncommissioned [officer] is on any account to releive a Guard untill the old Guard shall have swept the Guard house and its parade and removed every Nusance within Twenty yards of it.

As too much attention cannot be paid to a matter which immediately concerns the health and comfort of the soldiery and tends to promote regularity and good order in the Army, the Commander in Chief requests that the General officers will frequently take occasion to visit the Cantonments and attend at the Roll callings of the different Corps, to see that good order prevails and that due attention is paid to the dress and deliness [*sic*] of the Men, and report their observations to him without reserve. The General does not mean to confine these Inspections to the Corps under their immediate Commands, nor exempt such as are not attached to particular Commands from this necessary duty.

The Regiment on duty will furnish a party for repairing the Provost and officers Guard house. The Quarter Master of the day will superintend them. He will see that they are furnished with the necessary Tools and apply to the Quarter Master General for the utensills wanting for the Prisoners.

Major Carr is appointed a member of the General Court martial of which Col. M. Jackson is president, vice Majr. Pope, ordered on other duty.

The Quarter Master of the Jersey Brigade will commence the duty assigned the Brigade Quarter Masters in the orders above, tomorrow.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: It is with inexpressible concern, I make the followg Report to your Excellency.

Two Days ago, anonymous papers were circulated in the Army, requesting a general meeting of the Officers on the next Day. A Copy of one of these papers is inclosed, No. 1.[18] About the same Time, another anonymous paper purporting to be an Address to the Officers of the Army, was handed about in a clandestine manner: a Copy of this is mark'd No 2[19] To prevent any precipitate and dangerous Resolutions from being taken at this perilous moment, while the passions were all inflamed; as soon as these things came to my knowledge, the next Morng. I issued the inclosed Order No. 3.[20] And in this situation the Matter now rests.

As all opinion must be suspended until after the meeting on Saturday, I have nothing further to add, except a Wish, that the measures I have taken to dissipate a Storm, which had gathered so suddenly and unexpectedly, may be acceptable to Congress: and to assure them, that in every vicisitude of Circumstances, still actuated with the greatest zeal in their Service,

[18] Inclosure No. 1 proposed that a meeting of the general and field officers be held at the public building on Tuesday (March 11) next, at 11 o'clock "to obtain that redress of Grievances, which they seem to have solicited in vain." The original of No. 1 is in the *Washington Papers*.

[19] Inclosure No. 2 was an address to the officers of the Army urging a bolder, firmer tone with Congress, "That in any political Event, the Army has its Alternative: If Peace, that nothing shall seperate you from your Arms but Death. If War, that courting the Auspices, and inviting the Direction of your Illustrious Leader, you will retire to some yet unsettled Country, Smile in your Turn, and mock when their fear cometh on." The original of No. 2 seems to have been sent, by mistake, to Congress.

[20] Inclosure No. 3 was a copy of the General Orders of Mar. 11, 1783.

I shall continue my utmost Exertions to promote the wellfare of my Country under the most lively Expectation, that Congress have the best Intentions of doing ample Justice to the Army, as soon as Circumstances will possibly admit. With the highest Respect etc.

PS. Since writing the foregoing another anonymous paper is put in Circulation, Copy of which is inclosed, No. 4[21]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

Sir: I feel myself happy in having an opportunity, by this Letter, of introducing to your personal acquaintance Mr. Parker, one of the Contractors for this Army, the bearer of it; whose character as a Gentleman of amiable manners and dispositions, and as a Man of great integrity and capacity in business will have preceded him, and almost supersedes the necessity of my repeating that the business of the present Contract has been performed extremely to the satisfaction of the Army; his Merits, I am persuaded, will procure him the attentions, to which he is entitled by them.

Whatever may be judged most expedient by yourself and the Contractors relatively to an Inspector, will be perfectly acquiesced in by me.

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[21] Inclosure No. 4 was the anonymous address of March 12.

In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on March 17 and referred to John Taylor Gilman, Eliphalet Dyer, Abraham Clark, John Rutledge, and John Francis Mercer. The appointment "of these Gentlemen was brought about by a few members who wished to saddle with this embarrassment the men who had opposed the measures necessary for satisfying the army, viz. the half pay and permanent funds; against one or other of which the individuals in question had voted." Madison further recorded that "the steps taken by the General to avert the gathering storm and his professions of inflexible adherence to his duty to Congress and to his Country, excited the most affectionate sentiments towards him. . . . [The situation] gave peculiar awe and solemnity to the present moment, and oppressed the minds of Congs. with an anxiety and distress which had been scarcely felt in any period of the revolution." From Madison's "Notes of Debates in the Continental Congress," dated Mar. 17, 1783 (*Journals of the Continental Congress*).

Mr Parker has some proposals to make to you respecting advancing a Month's pay to the Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers in Merchandize, by which he thinks the payment may be made very acceptable and useful to them, and the terms of it extremely easy to the Public. Not wishing to interfere in a matter out of my proper sphere, I could only give him my fullest approbation of the Measure, if it should actually be made a matter of agreement between you and him and between him and the Army. As I was perfectly sensible (in case this Plan could be accomplished without interfering with other Arrangements) that it would in some measure ansr the double purpose of paying and clothing the Troops, so far as such a sum could be made to extend in procuring Necessaries for them; but of the practicability of it, I would not pretend to determine. With perfect esteem etc.[22]

*To JOSEPH JONES

Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 27th. Ulto., and thank you for the information and freedom of your communications.

My Official Letter to Congress of this date will inform you of what has happened in this Quarter, in addition to which, it may be necessary it should be known to you, and to such others as you may think proper, that the temper of the Army, tho. very irritable on acct. of their long-protracted sufferings has been apparently extremely quiet while their business was depending before Congress untill four days past. In the mean time, it should seem reports have been propagated in Philadelphia that dangerous combinations were forming in the Army; and this

[22] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

at a time when there was not a syllable of the kind in agitation in Camp.[23]

It also appears, that upon the arrival of a certain Gentleman from Phila. in Camp, whose name, I do not, at present, incline to mention[24] such sentiments as these were immediately and industriously circulated. That it was universally expected the Army would not disband untill they had obtained Justice. That the public creditors looked up to them for redress of their Grievances, would afford them every aid, and even join them in the Field, if necessary. That some Members of Congress wished the Measure might take effect, in order to compel the Public, particularly the delinquent States, to do justice. With many other suggestions of a Similar Nature; from whence, and a variety of other considerations it is generally believ'd the Scheme was not only planned, but also digested and matured in Philadelphia; and that some people have been playing a double game; spreading at the Camp and in Philadelphia Reports and raising jealousies equally void of Foundation untill called into being by their vile Artifices; for as soon as the Minds of the Army were thought to be prepared for the transaction, anonymous invitations were circulated, requesting a general Meeting of the Officers next day; at the same instant many Copies of the Address to the Officers of the Army was scattered in every State line of it.

So soon as I obtained knowledge of these things, I issued the order of the 11th. (transmitted to Congress;) in order to rescue the foot, that stood wavering on the precipice of despair, from taking those steps which would have lead to the abyss of misery

[23] "Reports are freely circulated here that there are dangerous combinations in the Army, and within a few days past it has been said, that they are about to declare, they will not disband untill their demands are complied with."—*Joseph Jones to Washington*, Feb. 27, 1783. Jones's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[24] Col. Walter Stewart.

while the passions were inflamed, and the mind trimblingly alive with the recollection of past sufferings, and their present feelings. I did this upon the principle that it is easier to divert from a wrong to a right path, than it is to recall the hasty and fatal steps which have been already taken.

It is commonly supposed, if the Officers had met agreeable to the anonymous Summons, resolutions might have been formed, the consequences of which may be more easily conceived than expressed. Now, they will have leisure to view the matter more calmly and seriously. It is to be hoped they will be induced to adopt more rational measures, and wait a while longer for the settlemts. of their Accts.; the postponing of which gives more uneasiness in the Army than any other thing. there is not a man in it, who will not acknowledge that Congress have not the means of payment; but why not say they, one and all, liquidate the Accts. and certifie our dues? are we to be disbanded and sent home without this? Are we, afterwards, to make individual applications for such settlements at Philadelphia, or any Auditing Office in our respective states; to be shifted perhaps from one board to another; dancing attendence at all, and finally perhaps be postponed till we loose the substance in pursuit of the shadow. While they are agitated by these considerations there are not wanting insiduous characters who tell them, it is neither the wish nor the intention of the public to settle your accounts; but to delay this business under one pretext or another till Peace wch. we are upon the eve of, and a seperation of the Army takes place when it is well known a generl settlement never can be effected and that individual loss, in this instance, becomes a public gain.

However derogatory these ideas are with the dignity, honor, and justice of government yet in a matter so interesting to the

Army, and at the same time so easy to be effected by the Public, as that of liquidating the Accounts, is delayed without any apparent, or obvious necessity, they will have their place in a mind that is soured and irritated. Let me entreat you therefore my good Sir to push this matter to an issue, and if there are Delegates among you, who are really opposed to doing justice to the Army, scruple not to tell them, if matters should come to extremity, that they must be answerable for all the ineffable horrors which may be occasioned thereby. I am etc.

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you last we were in a state of tranquility, but after the arrival of a certain Gentleman, who shall be nameless at present, from Philadelphia, a Storm very suddenly arose with unfavourable prognostics; which tho' diverted for a moment, is not yet blown over, nor is it in my power to point to the issue.

The Papers which I send officially to Congress, will supercede the necessity of my remarking on the tendency of them. The notification and Address, both appeared at the same instant on the day preceeding the intended meeting. The first of these, I got hold of the same afternoon; the other, not till next Morning.

There is something very misterious, in this business. It appears, reports have been propagated in Philadelphia, that dangerous combinations were forming in the Army . . .[25] From this, and a variety of considerations, it is firmly believed by *some,* the scheme was not only planned, but also digested and matured in Philadelphia; but my opinion shall be suspended till I have better ground to found one on. The matter was

managed with great Art; for as soon as the Minds of the Officers . . .[25] I was obliged therefore, in order to arrest, on the spot, the foot that stood wavering on a tremendous precipice, to prevent the Officers from being taken by surprize while the passions were all inflamed, and to rescue them from plunging themselves into a gulph of Civil horror from which there might be no receding, to issue the order of the 11th . . .[25] the postponing of which appears to be the most plausible, and almost only Article, of which designing men can make an improper use, by insinuating (which they really do) that it is done with design that Peace may take place, and prevent any adjustment of Accts. which say they would inevitably be the case if the War was to cease tomorrow. or supposing the best, you would have to dance attendance at public Officers at great distances perhaps, and equally great expences to obtain a settlement, which would be highly injurious, nay ruinous to you. this is their language.

Let me beseech you therefore, my good Sir, to urge this matter earnestly and without further delay. the Situation of these Gentleman I do verily believe is distressing beyond description. It is affirmed to me, that a large part of them have no other prospect before them than a Goal, if they are turned loose without a liquidation of Accts. and an assurance of that justice to which they are so worthily entitled. To prevail on the Delegates of those States through whose means these difficulties occur, it may, in my opinion, with propriety be suggested to them, if any disasterous consequences should follow, by reason of their delinquency, that they must be answerable to God and their Country for the ineffable horrors which may be occasioned thereby. I am etc.

[25] The omitted portion is the same as that found in Washington's letter to Joseph Jones, the same date as this letter (Mar. 12, 1783), *q. v.*

P. S. I have received your letter of the 5th. and have put that matter in train which was mentioned in it.[26]

I am this instant informed, that a Second Address to the Officers, distinguished No. 2. is thrown into circulation. The Contents, evidently prove that the Author is in, or near Camp; and that the following words, erased in the second page of this Letter, ought not to have met with this treatment. "By others, that it is the illegitimate offspring of a person in the Army."[27]

To CAPTAIN JOHN WORMELEY[28]

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 3d Inst. requestg Liberty to pass into Virginia.

It has long since been an established principle with me, to admit no *Citizen* from the Enemy's Lines to pass into any of the States, without first obtaining the Permission and Consent of the Executive of the individual State into which he wishes to be admitted.

Agreeable to this Idea, you will please to observe, that your Application in the first Instance, should be made to the Govr. of Virginia. If you think proper to do this, and permission is obtained from the Civil power of the State for the purpose you wish, my passport will be readily granted to you.

Should you address a Letter to the Executive of Virginia, under Cover to me, I will put it into the proper Channel for Conveyance. I am &c.[29]

[26] Hamilton had written (March 5): "The bearer Shattuck thinks he can point out the means of apprehending Wells and Knowlton, the two persons whom Your Excellency was authorised to have taken into custody. I have desired him to call upon you to disclose the plan." Hamilton's letter is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[27] From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[28] Formerly a captain in the British Army.

[29] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 8th instant.

Mr. Mercereau[30] being out of military Office, and retired to the Class of Citizens, his Application to me for Liberty to go into N York, is not properly made; but should be addressed to the Civil Power of the State within which he resides; independent of this principle, I have no Objection to granting his Request. You may communicate my sentiments to him, and if he obtains Govr Livingston's Permission, his passing to New York by Way of your post, will be a matter very admissible. I am &c.[31]

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: Among the Vouchers for Issues made to the Northward I find Vouchers signed by you for near four hundred Rations issued to Artificers employed at Saratoga. I must beg to be informed what men these are, how and by whose order they are employed. I am &c.[32]

To CAPTAIN JACQUES SCHREIBER[33]

Head Quarters, March 12, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your Letter of the 4th instant. Disposed as I am to afford you every Assistance in my power,

[30] John Mersereau.
[31] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[32] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[33] Captain of Continental Engineers. He retired in May, 1783.

consistent with my Duty; I am obliged to declare to you, that after the Application which you have made to Congress for your Exchange, It is not for me the Servant of Congress, to grant you that Indulgence, which that Hono Body, by their particular Resolution, have thought proper to deny, as inconsistent with those general principles, which they, for particular Reasons, have judged necessary to adopt. I am &c.[34]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, March 13, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Bedford, Clinton.

For the day tomorrow Major Rice.

For duty the Jersey Regiment. Brigade Quarter Master, York Brigade.

At the General court martial of which Colo. Micheal Jackson is President, Serjeant John Blasdell of Captain Freys[35] Compy in the Hampshire regiment, charged with breaking open the Cloathing Stores at Newburgh in the night of the 7th. instant and stealing from thence a number of shoes and boots. and Moses Lee, a soldier in Captain Cushings[36] Company 1 Massa. regiment, "charged with assisting in and conniving at the above mentioned theft, being on duty as a Sentinel at the same time. were tried.

The Court find Serjeant Blasdell guilty of breaking open the Cloathing store and stealing shoes from thence, the prisoner Lee, not guilty; the Court sentence serjeant Blasdell to be reduced to a private sentinel and to receive twenty five lashes on his naked back each morning for four mornings successively,

[34] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[35] Capt. Isaac Frye (Frey), of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He served to June, 1784.

[36] Capt. Nathaniel Cushing.

amounting in the whole to one hundred lashes, his Crime being in breach of Art 5th. Section 18th. of the Articles of war. The Commander in chief approves the foregoing sentences, and orders that serjeant Blasdell receive his punishment in the different Lines of the Army of the Cantonment vizt. twenty five lashes in the Hampshire, twenty five Lashes in the York, twenty five Lashes in the Jersey and twenty five lashes in the Massachusetts Lines.

The following Resolutions of Congress have been lately received by the Commander in Chief and are now made public for the information of the Army.

By the United States in Congress assembled,
January 25, 1783.

The grand, committee consisting of a member from each State, report, "That they have considered the contents of a memorial presented by the army and find that they comprehend five different articles.

1st. Present pay.

2d. A settlement of accounts of the Arreareages of pay and security for what is due.

3d. A commutation of the half-pay allowed by different resolutions of Congress for an equivalent in gross.

4th. A settlement of the accounts of deficiencies of rations and compensation.

5th. A settlement of the accounts of deficiencies of clothing and compensation:"

Whereupon, Resolved, As to the first, that the Superintendant of finance be directed conformable to the measures already taken for that purpose, as soon as the state of the public finances will permit, to make such payment and in such manner as he shall think proper, till the further order of Congress.

Resolved, With respect to the 2d article, so far as relates to the settlement of accounts, that the several states be called upon to complete without delay, the settlements with their respective lines of the army, up to the first day of August, 1780, and that the Superintendant of finance be directed to take such measures as shall appear to him most proper for effecting the settlement from that period.

As to what relates to the providing security for what shall be found due on such settlement.

Resolved, That the troops of the United States in common with all creditors of the same have an undoubted right to expect such security; and that Congress will make every effort in their power to obtain from the respective states substantial funds, adequate to the object of funding the whole debt of the United States, and will enter upon an immediate and full consideration of the nature of such funds, and the most likely mode of obtaining them.

Ordered that the remainder of the report be referred to a committee of five.[37]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, March 14, 1783.

Parole Darby. Countersigns Epsom, Fez.

For the day tomorrow Major Scott. Brigade Qr. Master from the Hampshire brigade.

For duty the Jersey Battalion.

The regiments which are not furnished with regimental Colours will immediately make application for them to Mr. Frothingham, Commissary of military stores.

*To THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 15, 1783.

Gentlemen[38]: By an anonymous summons, an attempt has been made to convene you together; how inconsistent with the

[37] This committee was composed of Samuel Osgood, Thomas FitzSimons, John Lewis Gervais, Alexander Hamilton, and James Wilson. January 27 was fixed to take into consideration "the means of obtaining from the several states substantial funds, for funding the whole debt of the United States."

[38] Ford notes a letter from Col. David Cobb, recounting that "When the General took his station in the desk or pulpit, which you may recollect, was in the Temple, he took out his written address from his coat pocket, and his spectacles, with his other hand, from his waistcoat pocket, and then addressed the officers in the following manner: "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray, but almost blind, in the service of my country." This little address, with the mode and manner of delivering it, drew tears from [many] of the officers."

rules of propriety! how unmilitary! and how subversive of all order and discipline, let the good sense of the Army decide.

In the moment of this Summons, another anonymous production was sent into circulation, addressed more to the feelings and passions, than to the reason and judgment of the Army. The author of the piece, is entitled to much credit for the goodness of his Pen and I could wish he had as much credit for the rectitude of his Heart, for, as Men see thro' different Optics, and are induced by the reflecting faculties of the Mind, to use different means, to attain the same end, the Author of the Address, should have had more charity, than to mark for Suspicion, the Man who should recommend moderation and longer forbearance, or, in other words, who should not think as he thinks, and act as he advises. But he had another plan in view, in which candor and liberality of Sentiment, regard to justice, and love of Country, have no part; and he was right, to insinuate the darkest suspicion, to effect the blackest designs.

That the Address is drawn with great Art, and is designed to answer the most insidious purposes. That it is calculated to impress the Mind, with an idea of premeditated injustice in the Sovereign power of the United States, and rouse all those resentments which must unavoidably flow from such a belief. That the secret mover of this Scheme (whoever he may be) intended to take advantage of the passions, while they were warmed by the recollection of past distresses, without giving time for cool, deliberative thinking, and that composure of Mind which is so necessary to give dignity and stability to measures is rendered too obvious, by the mode of conducting the business, to need other proof than a reference to the proceeding.

Thus much, Gentlemen, I have thought it incumbent on me to observe to you, to shew upon what principles I opposed the

irregular and hasty meeting which was proposed to have been held on Tuesday last: and not because I wanted a disposition to give you every oppertunity consistent with your own honor, and the dignity of the Army, to make known your grievances. If my conduct heretofore, has not evinced to you, that I have been a faithful friend to the Army, my declaration of it at this time wd. be equally unavailing and improper. But as I was among the first who embarked in the cause of our common Country. As I have never left your side one moment, but when called from you on public duty. As I have been the constant companion and witness of your Distresses, and not among the last to feel, and acknowledge your Merits. As I have ever considered my own Military reputation as inseperably connected with that of the Army. As my Heart has ever expanded with joy, when I have heard its praises, and my indignation has arisen, when the mouth of detraction has been opened against it, it can *scarcely be supposed*, at this late stage of the War, that I am indifferent to its interests. But, how are they to be promoted? The way is plain, says the anonymous Addresser. if War continues, remove into the unsettled Country; there establish yourselves, and leave an ungrateful Country to defend itself. But who are they to defend? Our Wives, our Children, our Farms, and other property which we leave behind us. or, in this state of hostile seperation, are we to take the two first (the latter cannot be removed), to perish in a Wilderness, with hunger, cold and nakedness? If Peace takes place, never sheath your Swords Says he untill you have obtained full and ample justice; this dreadful alternative, of either deserting our Country in the extremest hour of her distress, or turning our Arms against it, (which is the apparent object, unless Congress can be compelled into instant compliance) has something so shocking in it, that humanity revolts at the idea. My God! what can this

writer have in view, by recommending such measures? Can he be a friend to the Army? Can he be a friend to this Country? Rather, is he not an insidious Foe? Some Emissary, perhaps, from New York, plotting the ruin of both, by sowing the seeds of discord and seperation between the Civil and Military powers of the Continent? And what a Compliment does he pay to our Understandings, when he recommends measures in either alternative, impracticable in their Nature?

But here, Gentlemen, I will drop the curtain, because it wd. be as imprudent in me to assign my reasons for this opinion, as it would be insulting to your conception, to suppose you stood in need of them. A moment's reflection will convince every dispassionate Mind of the physical impossibility of carrying either proposal into execution.

There might, Gentlemen, be an impropriety in my taking notice, in this Address to you, of an anonymous production, but the manner in which that performance has been introduced to the Army, the effect it was intended to have, together with some other circumstances, will amply justify my observations on the tendency of that Writing. With respect to the advice given by the Author, to suspect the Man, who shall recommend moderate measures and longer forbearance, I spurn it, as every Man, who regards that liberty, and reveres that justice for which we contend, undoubtedly must; for if Men are to be precluded from offering their Sentiments on a matter, which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences, that can invite the consideration of Mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of Speech may be taken away, and, dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the Slaughter.

I cannot, in justice to my own belief, and what I have great reason to conceive is the intention of Congress, conclude this Address, without giving it as my decided opinion, that that

Honble Body, entertain exalted sentiments of the Services of the Army; and, from a full conviction of its merits and sufferings, will do it compleat justice. That their endeavors, to discover and establish funds for this purpose, have been unwearied, and will not cease, till they have succeeded, I have not a doubt. But, like all other large Bodies, where there is a variety of different Interests to reconcile, their deliberations are slow. Why then should we distrust them? and, in consequence of that distrust, adopt measures, which may cast a shade over that glory which, has been so justly acquired; and tarnish the reputation of an Army which is celebrated thro' all Europe, for its fortitude and Patriotism? and for what is this done? to bring the object we seek nearer? No! most certainly, in my opinion, it will cast it at a greater distance.

For myself (and I take no merit in giving the assurance, being induced to it from principles of gratitude, veracity and justice), a grateful sence of the confidence you have ever placed in me, a recollection of the chearful assistance, and prompt obedience I have experienced from you, under every vicissitude of Fortune, and the sincere affection I feel for an Army, I have so long had the honor to Command, will oblige me to declare, in this public and solemn manner, that, in the attainment of compleat justice for all your toils and dangers, and in the gratification of every wish, so far as may be done consistently with the great duty I owe my Country, and those powers we are bound to respect, you may freely command my Services to the utmost of my abilities.

While I give you these assurances, and pledge myself in the most unequivocal manner, to exert whatever ability I am possessed of, in your favor, let me entreat you, Gentlemen, on your part, not to take any measures, which, viewed in the calm light of reason, will lessen the dignity, and sully the glory you have hitherto maintained; let me request you to rely on the plighted

faith of your Country, and place a full confidence in the purity of the intentions of Congress; that, previous to your dissolution as an Army they will cause all your Accts. to be fairly liquidated, as directed in their resolutions, which were published to you two days ago, and that they will adopt the most effectual measures in their power, to render ample justice to you, for your faithful and meritorious Services. And let me conjure you, in the name of our common Country, as you value your own sacred honor, as you respect the rights of humanity, and as you regard the Military and National character of America, to express your utmost horror and detestation of the Man who wishes, under any specious pretences, to overturn the liberties of our Country, and who wickedly attempts to open the flood Gates of Civil discord, and deluge our rising Empire in Blood. By thus determining, and thus acting, you will pursue the plain and direct road to the attainment of your wishes. You will defeat the insidious designs of our Enemies, who are compelled to resort from open force to secret Artifice. You will give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue, rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings; And you will, by the dignity of your Conduct, afford occasion for Posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to Mankind, "had this day been wanting, the World had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining."

[MS.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, March 15, 1783.

Parole Georgia. Countersigns Hartford, Ipswitch.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Col. Brooks, Brigade Quartr. Mastr. 1st. Massachusetts Brigade.

For duty the 1st York regiment.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 16, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to inform your Excellency, for the satisfaction of Congress, that the meeting of the Officers, which was mentioned in my last, has been held Yesterday: and, that it has terminated in a manner, which I had reason to expect, from a knowledge of that good Sense and steady Patriotism of the Gentlemen of the Army, which, on frequent Occasions, I have discovered.

The Report of the Meeting, with the other papers, which will be necessary to accompany it, I shall do myself the Honor to transmit to Congress, as soon as they can possibly be prepared. With the highest Respect etc.[39]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 16, 1783.

Parole Kenderhook. Countersigns Litchfield, Medway.

For the day tomorrow Major Trescot. Brigade Quarter Master 3d. Massachusetts Brigade.

For duty The Hampshire regiment.

The General Court Martial of which Colo. Micheal Jackson is president will assemble at the New Building tomorrow morning ten o'clock, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them.

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, March 17, 1783.

Parole Northumberland. Countersigns Oporto, Picardy.

For the day tomorrow Major Gibbs. Brige. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brigd.

[39] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

For duty the Hampshire Battalion.

The honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolve.

By the United States in Congress assembled,
February 21 1783.

Whereas sundry officers in the Army of the United States, have been taken from the line to act in the departments of the General Staff and are entitled to additional pay in consequence thereof:

Resolved, That it be, and hereby is recommended to the several states to whom such officers respectively belong, to adjust and discharge on account of the United States, the deficiencies on the additional pay, to which they are entitled by the resolutions of Congress, in the same manner, and to the same time, they settle their accounts as officers in the line.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 18, 1783.

Sir: The result of the proceedings of the grand Convention of the Officers, which I have the honor of enclosing to your Excellency for the inspection of Congress, will, I flatter myself, be considered as the last glorious proof of Patriotism which could have been given by Men who aspired to the distinction of a patriot Army; and will not only confirm their claim to the justice, but will increase their title to the gratitude of their Country.[40]

Having seen the proceedings on the part of the Army terminate with perfect unanimity, and in a manner entirely consonant to my wishes; being impressed with the liveliest sentiments

[40] Ford prints from a letter from Maj. J. A. Wright to Maj. John Webb, from West Point, Mar. 16, 1783, the following: "Yesterday there was a meeting of the officers. The Commander in Chief came among us, and made a most excellent address; he appeared sensibly agitated; as the writer advises to 'suspect the man who should advise to more moderation and longer forbearance,' this expression, together with a second anonymous letter, which I have not seen, gave reason to suppose that it was a plan laid against his Excellency, as every one who knows him must be sensible that he would recommend moderation. The general having finished his address, retired. Gen'l Gates took the chair; the business of the day was conducted with order, moderation, and decency."

of affection for those who have so long, so patiently and so chearfully suffered and fought under my immediate direction; having from motives of justice, duty and gratitude, spontaneously offered myself as an advocate for their rights; and having been requested to write to your Excellency earnestly entreating the most speedy decision of Congress upon the subjects of the late Address from the Army to that Honble. Body, it now only remains for me to perform the task I have assumed, and to intercede in their behalf, as I now do, that the Sovereign Power will be pleased to verify the predictions I have pronounced of, and the confidence the Army have reposed in the justice of their Country.

And here, I humbly conceive it is altogether unnecessary, (while I am pleading the cause of an Army which have done and suffered more than any other Army ever did in the defence of the rights and liberties of human nature,) to expatiate on their *Claims* to the most ample compensation for their meritorious Services, because they are perfectly known to the whole World, and because, (altho' the topics are inexhaustible) enough has already been said on the subject.

To prove these assertions, to evince that my sentiments have ever been uniform, and to shew what my ideas of the rewards in question have always been, I appeal to the Archives of Congress, and call on those sacred deposits to witness for me. And in order that my observations and Arguments in favor of a future adequate provision for the Officers of the Army may be brought to remembrance again, and considered in a single point of view without giving Congress the trouble of having recourse to their files, I will beg leave to transmit herewith an Extract from a representation made by me to a Committee of Congress so long ago as the 29th of January 1778.[41] and also the

[41] See Washington's letter to the Committee of Congress with the Army, Jan. 29, 1778, *ante*.

transcript, of a Letter to the President of Congress, dated near Passaic Falls Octr. 11th. 1780[42] That in the critical and perilous moment when the last mentioned communication was made, there was the utmost danger of a dissolution of the Army would have taken place unless measures similar to those recommended had been adopted, will not admit a doubt. That the adoption of the Resolution granting half-pay for life has been attended with all the happy consequences I had foretold, so far as respected the good of the service; let the astonishing contrast between the State of the Army at this instant, and at the former period determine. And that the establishment of funds, and security of the payment of all the just demands of the Army will be the most certain means of preserving the National faith and future tranquillity of this extensive Continent, is my decided opinion.

By the preceeding remarks it will readily be imagined that instead of retracting and reprehending (from farther experience and reflection) the mode of compensation so strenuously urged in the Inclosures, I am more and more confirmed in the Sentiment, and if in the wrong suffer me to please myself with the grateful delusion.

For if, besides the simple payment of their Wages, a farther compensation is not due to the sufferings and sacrifices of the Officers, then have I been mistaken indeed. If the whole Army have not merited whatever a grateful people can bestow, then have I been beguiled by prejudice, and built opinion on the basis of error. If this Country should not in the Event perform every thing which has been requested in the late Memorial to Congress, then will my belief become vain, and the hope that has been excited void of foundation. And "if, (as has been suggested for the purpose of inflaming their passions) the Officers

[42] See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Oct. 11, 1780, *ante*.

of the Army are to be the only sufferers by this resolution [*sic*]; if retiring from the Field, they are to grow old in poverty wretchedness and contempt. If they are to wade thro' the vile mire of dependency and owe the miserable remnant of that life to charity, which has hitherto been spent in honor,"[43] then shall I have learned what ingratitude is, then shall I have realized a tale, which will imbitter every moment of my future life. But I am under no such apprehensions, a Country rescued by their Arms from impending ruin, will never leave unpaid the debt of gratitude.

Should any intemperate or improper warmth have mingled itself amongst the foregoing observations, I must entreat your Excellency and Congress it may be attributed to the effusion of an honest zeal in the best of Causes, and that my peculiar situation may be my apology. And I hope I need not, on this momentuous occasion make any new protestations of personal disinterestedness, having ever renounced for myself the idea of pecuniary reward. The consciousness of having attempted faithfully to discharge my duty, and the approbation of my Country will be a sufficient reccompense for my Services. I have the honor etc.[44]

*To JOSEPH JONES

Newburgh, March 18, 1783.

The storm which seeemed to be gathering with unfavourable prognostics, when I wrote to you last, is dispersed; and we are again in a state of tranquility. But do not, My dear Sir, suffer

[43] Quoted from the "First Anonymous Newburgh Address," where the word copied by Washington as "resolution" is correctly written "revolution."

[44] The letter was read in Congress on March 22 and referred to Samuel Osgood, Theodorick Bland, Alexander Hamilton, Oliver Wolcott, and Richard Peters. Filed with this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress* is a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the officers, Mar. 15, 1783; an extract from the representation made by the Commander in Chief to the Committee of Congress, Jan. 29, 1778; and an extract from the letter to the President of Congress, Oct. 11, 1780.

this appearance of tranquility to relax your endeavors to bring the requests of the Army to an issue. believe me, the Officers are too much pressed by their present wants, and rendered too sore by the recollection of their past sufferings to be touched much longer upon the string of forbearance, in matters wherein they can see no cause for delay. Nor would I have further reliance placed on any influence of mine to dispel other Clouds if any should arise, from the causes of the last.

By my official Letter to Congress, and the Papers inclosed in it, you will have a full view of my assurances to, and the expectations of the Army; and I perswade myself that the well wishers to both, and of their Country, will exert themselves to the utmost to irradicate the Seeds of distrust, and give every satisfaction that justice requires, and the means which Congress possess, will enable them to do.

In a former letter I observed to you, that a liquidation of Accts, in order that the Ballances might be ascertained, is the great object of the Army; and certainly nothing can be more reasonable. To have these Ballances discharged at this, or in any short time; however desirable, they know is impracticable, and do not expect it; altho', in the meantime, they must labour under the pressure of those sufferings; which is felt more sensibly by a comparison of circumstances.

The situation of these Gentlemen merit the attention of every thinking and grateful mind. As Officers, they have been *obliged* to dress, and appear in character, to effect which, they have been *obliged* to anticipate their pay, or participate their Estates. By the first, debts have been contracted. by the latter, their patrimony is injured. To disband Men therefore under these circumstances, before their Accts. are liquidated, and the Ballances ascertained, would be, to sett open the doors of the Goals, and then to shut them upon Seven Years faithful and painful Services. Under any circumstances which the nature of

the case will admit, they must be considerable Sufferers; because necessity will compell them to part with their certificates for whatever they will fetch; to avoid the evil I have mentioned above: and how much this will place them in the hands of unfeeling, avaricious speculators a recurrence to past experience will sufficiently prove.

It may be said by those who have no disposition to compensate the Services of the Army, that the Officers have too much penetration to place dependance (in any alternative) upon the strength of their own Arm; I will readily concede to these Gentlemen that no good could result from such an attempt; but I hope they will be equally candid in acknowledging, that much mischief may flow from it. and that nothing is too extravagent to expect from men, who conceive they are ungratefully, and unjustly dealt by; especially too if they can suppose that characters are not wanting, to foment every passion which leads to discord, and that there are—but—time shall reveal the rest.

Let it suffice, that the very attempt, wd. imply a want of justice, and fix an indelible stain upon our national character; as the whole world, as well from the enemies publication (without any intention to serve us) as our own, must be strongly impressed with the sufferings of this army from hunger, cold and nakedness. in allmost every stage of the War. Very sincerely etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, March 18, 1783.

Parole Quibbletown. Countersigns Raway, Swansey.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Colo. E. Vose. / Brigade Qr. Mastr. Jersey Brigd.

For duty the first Massachusetts Regiment.

The Commander in Chief is highly satisfied with the report of the proceedings of the officers assembled on the 15th. instt. in

obedience to the Orders of the 11th. He begs his inability to communicate an adequate idea of the pleasing feelings which have been exited in his breast by the affectionate sentiments expressed towards him on that occasion, may be considered as an apology for his silence.

The Original papers being too prolix to be inserted in the Records of the Army, will be lodged at the Orderly office, to be perused, or copied by any Gentleman of the Army who may think proper.

It has been reported to the Commander in chief that a large quantity of Filth remains between the Hutts of the 5th. 8th. 3d. and 4th. Massachusetts Regiments. He directs that it be immediately removed.

As the Weather is now favorable the General requests that the communication between the wings of the Army may be perfected, he supposes the materials are already collected and that there will be no interruption to the business. General Dayton will be pleased to appoint a person or persons in the right wing to superintend the work and see that it is properly done. Genl. Putnam will do the same in the left wing.

If the Brigades and corps have not themselves divided the ground; it will be proportioned as follows: Jersey Brigade 219 Feet; York do. allowing the 2d. regt. the materials collected by the 3d. Massa. regiment 216; Hampshire Brigade 178; 1st. Massa. do. 354; 6th. do. Regiment 122; 2d. do. Brigade 351; Total 1440.

The Jersey Brigade takes its proportion at the western, and the 2nd. Massa. Brigade at the Eastern extremity: the other Brigades and Corps in their order of encampment.

On March 18 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam, authorizing a board of officers to settle the relative rank of Capts. Sylvanus Smith, John Burnham, and others, of the Massachusetts line. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I am exceedingly obliged to your Excellency, for your communication of the 15th of this month. The Articles of Treaty between America and Great Britain, as they stand in connection with a general pacification, are so very inconclusive, that I am fully in sentiment with you, that we should hold ourselves in a hostile position, prepared for either alternative, War or Peace.

I shall confer with the Duke de Lauzun on the objects you are pleased to mention, and as I have ever viewed the practice of the States, in supplying the Enemy in New York with the means of subsistence, as a very pernicious one in its Tendency, both to ourselves and our Allies, you may depend upon me to exert every measure in my power to prevent it.

I am at all times happy in receiving any intelligence from your Excellency, and should it be in your power to announce a general Peace, you cannot make a more pleasing communication to me; persuaded of the pure and benevolent intentions which animate the breast of his Most Christian Majesty, I am assured, if that happy event should not result from the present negotiation, that the failure will not rest on his part. I have the honor etc.[45]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Commander in Chief has reced a Letter from a Mr. Richd Corbin of Laneville in Virginia, desiring him to

[45] In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

cause Enquiry to be made for his *Son Dicky,* who left his Father in the Year 1775, and went to England to secure a family Claim to an Estate in England and in Jamaica. The Father is informed, that his Son is now in N York, and wishes to get a certainty of the Fact. His Excellency desires you to take measures, such as you shall think proper, to gain some knowledge of the Young Gentleman, and if in N York, to give us what Information you can obtain of him.[46]

The inclosed Letter for Sir Guy Carleton was transmitted to the Commr in Chief, by Mr Livingston Sectry of foreign Affairs. You will please to forward it to N York taking notice, for your future Government, of the Exchange that has been agreed to by Doctr Franklin. I am etc.[47]

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's favor of the 12th inst. and to thank you most sincerely for the Intelligence you was pleased to communicate.[48]

The Articles of Treaty between America and Great Britain, are as full and satisfactory, as we have reason to expect; but from the connection in which they stand, with a general pacification, they are very inconclusive and contingent: from this circumstance, compared with such other Intelligence as I have

[46] On this same day (March 19) Washington wrote to Richard Corbin that inquiry would be made for his son in New York. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

[47] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[48] Boudinot's letter (March 12) stated that Capt. Joshua Barney, in the packet *Washington,* left L'Orient on January 17, arrived in Philadelphia on the morning of March 12, and brought the preliminary treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States which had been signed by the commissioners at Paris on the 30th of November. Boudinot enumerated the substance of the various articles of the treaty. In a letter to Washington, also dated March 12, Robert R. Livingston forwarded the complete text of Arts. 5 and 6. Sir Guy Carleton forwarded to Washington, for transmission to Congress, a copy of the preliminary treaty, in a letter of March 19 Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

been able to collect, I must confess, I have my fears, that we shall be obliged to worry thro' another Campaign, before we arrive at that happy period, which is to crown all our Toils.

Any Intelligence from your Excellency will, at all Times, be very agreeable to me; but should it be in your power to announce a general Peace, you could not make me more happy, than in the communication of such an Event. With the highest Regard etc.[49]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I have received from Capt Kirkwood, the Arrangement of the Officers of the Delaware Battalion, which has my Approbation. Capts. Wm McKennan and George Purvis,[50] will, by their Consent, also continue in Service, to do the Duty of P Master and Adjutant.

Should it be tho't proper to collect that Battalion together, it is more probable that they may be called to join the Main Army, than to be ordered to any other place; they will therefore, remain as they are, for the present.

The proposal mentioned in your Letter of the 8th. for callg on deranged Officers to Attend the Discipline of the Troops in the Main Army, meets my full Approbation, and should it be tho't proper to have it carried into effect, I think it may be attended with very salutary Consequences. It is not in my power, from Recollection to name the Officers, who would be most suitable for this purpose. The Baron[51] I expect will soon be on, and should the Measure be adopted by Congress, the Nomination may be seasonably made. I am &c.[52]

[49] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[50] Both Captain McKennan and Captain Purvis served to the close of the war.
[51] Baron Von Steuben.
[52] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

*To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: About the first of this month I wrote you a long letter. I touched upon the state of the Army; the situation of public Creditors, and wished to know from you as a friend, what causes had induced the Assembly of Virginia to withdraw their assent to the Impost Law; and how the Continental creditors without (adequate funds) were to come at, or obtain security for their money.

I little expected at the time of writing that letter, that we were on the eve of an important crisis to this Army; when the touch stone of discord was to be applied; and the virtue of its members to undergo the severest trial.

You have not been altogether unacquainted, I dare say, with the fears, the hopes, the apprehensions and the expectations of the Army relatively to the provision which is to be made for them hereafter. Altho' a firm reliance on the integrety of Congress and a belief that the Public would finally do justice to all its Servants, and give an indisputable Security for the payment of the half-pay of the Officers had kept them amidst a variety of sufferings tolerably quiet and contented for two or three years past; Yet the total want of pay, the little prospect of receiving any from the unpromising state of the public finances, and the absolute aversion of the States to establish any Continental funds for the payment of the Debt due to the Army, did at the close of the last Campaign exite greater discontents and threaten more serious and alarming consequences than it is easy for me to describe or you to conceive.

Happily for us, the Officers of highest rank and greatest consideration interposed, and it was determined to Address Congress in an humble, pathetic and explicit manner.

While the Sovereign Power appeared perfectly well disposed to do justice, it was discovered the States would enable them to do nothing. And in this state of Affairs, and after sometime spent on the business in Philadelphia, a report was made by the Delegates of the Army giving a Detail of the proceedings: Before this could be fully communicated to the Troops, while the Minds of all were in a peculiar state of inquietude and irritation, an Anonymous Writer, who tho' he did not boldly step forth and give his name to the World, sent into circulation an Address to the Officers of the Army which in point of composition, in elegance and force of expression, has rarely been equalled in the English Language, and in which the dreadful alternative was proposed of relinquishing the Service in a body in case the War continued, or retaining their Arms in case of Peace, untill Congress should comply with all their demands. At the same time siezing the moment when the Minds were inflamed by the most pathetic representations, a General meeting of the Officers was summoned by another anonymous production.

It is impossible to say what would have been the consequence had the Author succeeded in his first plans. But measures having been taken to postpone the meeting so as to give time for cool reflection and counteraction, the good sense of the Officers has terminated this Affair in a manner, which reflects the greatest glory on themselves and demands the highest expressions of gratitude from their Country.

The Proceedings have this day been reported to Congress, and will probably be published for the satisfaction of the good people of these United States. In the mean time I thought it necessary to give you these particulars, principally with a design to communicate to you, without reserve, my opinion on this interesting subject. For notwithstanding the storm has now passed over, notwithstanding the Officers have, in despite of their accumulated sufferings, given the most unequivocal and

exalted proofs of Patriotism; Yet I believe, unless justice shall be done, and funds effectually provided for the payment of the Debt, the most deplorable and ruinous consequences may be apprehended. Justice, honor, gratitude, policy, every thing, is opposed to the conduct of driving men to despair of obtaining their just rights after serving Seven years a painful life in the Field. I say in the *Field*, because they have not during that period had any thing to shelter them from the inclemency of the Seasons but Tents, and such Houses as they could build for themselves.

Convinced of this, and actuated as I am, not by private and Interested motives, but by a sense of duty, a love of justice, and all the feelings of gratitude towards a body of men who have merited infinitely well of their Country, I can never conceal, or suppress my Sentiments. I cannot cease to exert all the Abilities I am possessed of to shew the evil tendency of procrastinated justice; for I will not suppose it is intended ultimately to withhold it; Nor fail to urge the Establishment of such adequate and permanent funds as will enable Congress to secure the payment of the public Debt on such principles as will preserve the National faith, give satisfaction to the Army, and tranquillity to the Public. With great esteem etc.

P. S. The Author of Anonymous Address is yet behind the Curtain; and as conjecture may be grounded on error, I will not announce mine, as present.[53]

*To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 12th. and for the enclosures. the early communication of such

[53] See Washington's letter to John Armstrong, Feb. 23, 1797, *post*.

important occurances rendered the favor doubly acceptable. Would to God the Articles for a general pacification were as well advanced as those between America and G Britain but I am not without fears that that event is at a greater distance than the Sanguine ones imagine.

The policy of G. Britain now, if I have formed a right judgment, is to sooth America as much as possible, in order to weaken the band and make her uneasy under the Alliance if the policy, or Situation of France with respect to the other Belleg-erent powers renders it necessary to continue the War another Campaign. This, or some manœuvre, which may be performed with safety during the equipment of the Fleet at Cadiz must, undoubtedly, be the cause of the present procrastination of the Negociations at Paris; what the final issue may be Heaven knows. Such an avidity appears among our People to make money, and so feeble the Reins of Government (where there is an attempt to use them) to restrain the illicit and pernicious intercourse of Trade with the enemy at New York that the fence between them and us is entirely broken down and nothing but an Army quite sufficient to form a close investiture of that place can repair it. five such Armies as I have would be incompetent, employed in any other way. The Boats which have been Commissioned to obstruct this trade, are instrumental in carrying it on, and have been caught in the Act as many other Trading parties also have been by the Guards and patroles I keep for this purpose, but it avails nothing. By Hook or by Crook, they are certain of acquittal. In truth I am quite discouraged, and have scarce any thing left but lamentation for the want of Virtue and depravity of my Countrymen.

The insidious attempt which has been made to inflame the Army, and to Sow the Seeds of distrust between the Civil and Military powers; and the proceedings consequent thereupon;

having been sent to Congress (where you will have an oppertunity of seeing them) I shall add nothing on that head but a wish that the propriety of early decision may strike that Honble. Body as sensibly as I feel it.

Your packet for Govr. Clinton was forwarded in the moment of my receiving it. I have the Honor etc.

*To DANIEL PARKER

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Sir: The Silk which you expected from Boston for lining is arrivd, but White; Mr. Smith expects other; but this is uncertain. My Coat of which I am in great want, in the mean while stands.

I shall thank you therefore to bring me a *Buff* lining of *any kind* from Philadelphia, sufficient for a Coat and Vest-Coat.

If a pair of French Epauletts (gold) could be had, I would thank you for bringing me a pair; I do not want them of the largest and richest kind; because it is for a frock Coat they are intended; nor would I have them of the mean kind. Such as you will probably see upon Count de Dillon or any *Field* Officer in the French Service are of the kind I would prefer. I am etc.

*To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Money which was received in Feby. or March last Year for my Household Expences, is more than expended; and the Subsistence Notes in the hands of the D. Pay master will procure nothing from the Country people. Be so kind then, my good Sir; as to point me to the means with which these expences are to be borne.

For immediate and pressing calls I was obliged a day or two ago, to draw upon the Contingent fund in the hands of the Pay master for 200 dollars; whether this is the source to which I am to have recourse in future remains with you to decide. I am etc.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I take the liberty of forwarding to your Excellency a Letter from a Mr. Wormly in New York. His present application I suppose is in consequence of the information I had given him that a Passport for his return to Virginia could only be granted upon his obtaining permission for the purpose from the Executive of the State. I now leave his request to its own operation and the wisdom of Government. With great regard etc.

P. S. The Money sent out some time ago is still in the Hands of Colo Smith. Mr. Inglis tho' advised of it will not send for it; the money for Chevr Chattelleun came a few days since.[54]

[V. S. L.]

*To JOHN PIERCE

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Sir: I am sorry to be troublesome, but as you did not answer a question in my last, I am obliged to repeat it. I mean that one, which respects General McDougall. My reason for it is; that Gentleman applied (within the space mentioned in my last) for a Sum for Secret Services, not having the means of compliance, I was obliged to have recourse to Philadelphia, where I obtained money, and find in my Accts. that Genl. McDougall is charged with the Sum he required of me; but

[54] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

whether my application to Phila. was in his name or my own, I am somewhat doubtful, if the first, and he should be charged there, there must, in that case, be some error in my Accts. If on the contrary, all is right, and I wish to be satisfied perfectly of this fact. I am etc. [H. S. P.]

To LUND WASHINGTON

Newburg, March 19, 1783.

Dear Lund: I did not write to you by the last Post. I was too much engaged at the time, in counteracting a most insidious attempt to disturb the repose of the army, and sow the seeds of discord between the civil and military powers of the continent, to attend to small matters. The author of this attempt, whoever he may be, is yet behind the curtain; and as conjectures might be wrong, I shall be silent at present. The good sense, the virtue, and patient forbearance of the army, on this, as upon every other trying occasion which has happened to call them into action, has again triumphed: and appear'd with more lustre than ever. But if the States will not furnish the supplies required by Congress, thereby enabling the Superintendant of Finance to feed, clothe, and pay the army; if they suppose the war can be carried on without money, or that money can be borrowed without permanent funds to pay the interest of it; if they have no regard to justice, because it is attended with expence; if gratitude to men, who have rescued them from the jaws of danger and brought them to the haven of Independence and Peace, is to subside, as danger is removed; If the sufferings of the army, who have borne, and forborne more than any other class of men in the Ud. States; expending their health; and many of them their all, in an unremitted service of near eight years in the field, encountering hunger,

cold and nakedness, are to be forgotten; if it is presumed there is no bounds to the patience of the army; or that when peace takes place, their claims for pay due, and rewards promised may die with the military non-existence of its member. If such, I say, should be the sentiments of the States; and that their conduct, or the conduct of some, does but too well warrant the conclusion, well may another anonymous addresser step forward, and with more effect than the last did, say with him, "You have arms in your hands, do justice to yourselves, and never sheath the sword, 'till you have obtained it." How far men, who labour under the pressure of accumulated distress, and are irritated by a belief that they are treated with neglect, ingratitude, and injustice in the extreme, might be worked upon by designing men, is worthy of very serious consideration. But justice, policy, yea common Sense, must tell every man that the creditors of the continent, cannot receive payments unless funds are provided for it, and that our national character, if these are much longer neglected, must be stamped with indelible infamy in every Nation of the world where the fact is known. I am etc.[55]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, March 19, 1783.

Parole Tartary. Countersigns Ulpho, Wills.

For the day tomorrow { Major Knap
Brigd. Qr. Master York Brigade.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regt.

The present mode of collecting and digesting the reports of Police into one point of view will be productive of the happiest

[55] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

consequences. The General desires the officers will continue to be as particular in their remarks as they have been a few days past.

The Quarter Master Genl. will provide Straw as soon as possible.

A further distribution of Blankets is to be made.

The Contractors are requested to have an ample supply of Vinegar, that the issue of that article may be regular as soon as the warm Weather commences.

AFTER ORDERS

The Quarter Master of the Brigade which gives the Fatigue for repairing the Provost and officers guard house, will furnish the party with tools agreeably to the requisition of the Quartermaster of the day, which are to be returned at night.

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, March 20, 1783.

Sir: I am at a Loss how to regulate my Conduct in consequence of the Letter you have transmitted to me, addressed to Sir Guy Carleton, relative to the Exchange of Capt Fage, agreed upon by Doctr Franklin.

Several Exchanges made in the same Manner in Europe, by Doctr Franklin and Marquis de la Fayette, have been referred to Congress, for their Confirmation, so long ago as last fall; and I have yet no reply from that Hono Body, to direct me in the Demand I should make of any Officers in Return for those released by us to the Enemy. I am led to conjecture that this Silence of Congress has some particular meaning in it; And as

On March 19 Washington wrote briefly to Capt. Robert Kirkwood, of the Delaware regiment, that he had approved the arrangement of that battalion. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

their Resolutions are directly opposed to any partial Exchanges, I have made no Request for any American Officers, in return for British Officers exchanged by those agreements in Europe.

I shall transmit Mr Secty Townshends Letter to Sir Guy Carleton, without naming any Gentlemen on our part; And at the same Time, I shall be exceedgly glad, if you will obtain from Congress, Instructions, how far I may be authorized to make any Demands in Consequence of their Exchanges. I am &c.[56]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Thursday, March 20, 1783.

Parole Amboy. Countersigns Boundbrook, Carlile.

For the day tomorrow { Major Graham / Brigd. Qr. Master Hampshire Brigd

For duty the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in chief desires the Brigadiers and Commandants of Brigades will report to him on monday next the Manoevring Ground they have fixed upon for their several commands, as it is expected the season will soon admit the commencement of the daily Exercises.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, March 21, 1783.

Parole Danbury. Countersigns Epsom, Flamborough.

For the day tomorrow { Major Morrill / Brigd. Qr. Mr. 1st. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 6th. Massachusetts regiment.

Whenever a Brigade or corps are under arms on a field day, field returns are to be presented to the Commander in chief, or Reviewing officer; exhibiting the actual strength of the corps,

[56] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the number of men under Arms, and accounting summarily for those who may be absent.

The greatest possible number is always expected in the Ranks on such occasions.

On the 16th. of April, Returns of all the Officers in service on that day are to be given in to the Orderly office, specifying the names, the relative regimental rank, and dates of Commission's also whether with the army or absent, and if absent, by whose authority, and untill what time such leave of absence was granted.

Officers of the Line serving on the Staff are to be mentioned as such, with the respective offices they hold, at the foot of the Returns.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 21, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to Congress, a Copy of a joint Letter from Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby to me, which accompanied the enclosed Treaty signed at Paris the 30th. of November, which I take the earliest opportunity to forward, agreeable to their Desire. With the highest Esteem etc.[57]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, March 22, 1783.

Parole Ghent. Countersigns Holland, Ireland.

For the day tomorrow { Major Ashley. / Brigd. Qr. Master 3d. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 2d. Massachusetts regiment.

[57] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 21 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment to Carleton and Digby, informing them that he had forwarded a copy of the treaty as desired. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

In justice to the zeal and ability of the Chaplains, as well as to his own feelings, the Commander in chief thinks it a duty to declare the regularity and decorum with which divine service is now performed every sunday, will reflect great credit on the army in general, tend to improve the morals, and at the same time, to increase the happiness of the soldiery, and must afford the most pure and rational entertainment for every serious and well disposed mind.

No fatigue except on extra occasions, nor General review or inspections to be permitted on the Sabbath day.

A Packet Boat will set out from the Continental Dock at Newburgh tomorrow morning at ten o'clock precisely, for Westpoint, and will leave Westpoint precisely at 4 o'clock in the after noon. This packet will continue to ply between those places every day, and will leave them at the hours above mentioned.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, March 23, 1783.

Parole K. Countersigns L. M.

For the day tomorrow { Major Porter. / B. Q. M. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 8th. Massachusetts Regt.

The Light Infantry Companies, to be compleated to the Establishment viz to 5 Serjts. 2 Dr. and f. and 68 Rank and File each.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Newburgh, March 23, 1783.

Sir: In a letter which I have lately received from the Marquis de la Fayette, he expresses a wish that my sentiments respecting his absence may be communicated to Congress. To comply with his desire, and not because I conceive the testimony of my

approbation of it is wanting, I give your Excellency the trouble of this Letter.

Congress have had too many unequivocal proofs of the Zeal, the attachment to, and important exertions of this young nobleman in the American Cause, to entertain a doubt of the propriety of his present absence. Sure I am that his return will be as soon as he can make it subservient to the Interest of this Country. These being my Sentiments, I communicate them without reserve. I have the honor etc.[58]

*To COMTE D'ESTAING

Newburg, March 23, 1783.

Sir: Your Excelly. I am sure will pardon me, when the momentary interruption I give you, is for the purpose of introducing to your Civilities Monsr. Gouvion, Colo. in the American Service, and an Officer of great merit, and of distinguished zeal, abilities and bravery.

He will repeat to you my former assurances of attachment, and convey to you my present wishes for your Success. He will tell you how happy it would make me to embrace you on American Ground, and with what Respect and consideration. I have the honr. etc.[59]

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, March 23, 1783.

My dear Marqs.: I have to acknowledge the honor of your favors of the 14th and 24th. of October and 4th. of Decr; to

[58] The letter was read in Congress on April 7 and referred to Richard Peters, Eliphalet Dyer, and Thomas Sim Lee.

[59] On March 23 Washington wrote similar letters of introduction for Gouvion to Marquis de Bouillé and Baron de Viomenil, the drafts of which are in the *Washington Papers*.

thank you for the warm and affectionate expression of them; and to congratulate you and Madam La Fayette on the birth of a daughter. Virginia I am perswaded, will be pleased with the Compliment of the name; and I pray as a member of it she may live to be a blessing to her Parents.

It would seem that, none of my Letters (except one by Colonel Gemat) had reached you when you last wrote. I do not know how to acct. for this. My last letter to you went by the Chevr. Chartellux which could not have arrived; the others were committed to the care either of the Chevr. de la Luzerne or our Secretary of Foreign Affairs at Philadelphia, to be forwarded by such conveyances as might offer.

I am fully perswaded My dear Marqs. of your Zeal in the American Cause. I am sure you adopted the plan you are now in the execution of, as the most likely, tho' a little circuitous, to serve it; and I shall express to Congress who I know have an exalted opinion of your zeal, abilities and faithful Services, my entire approbation of your conduct; and the purity of the motives which gave rise to it. Your pursuit after honor and glory will be accompanied by my warmest wishes, and you have my sincerest congratulations on your promotion,[60] and Command in the French Army.

As it is your wish, I have given Colo. Gouvion my consent to meet you at the rendezvous appointed him, and he sets out with all the alacrity of a friend to attend it. You must receive him as a precious loan because I esteem and value him and because it is to you only I would part with him. I should be happy, if I could speak decidedly upon any plan of Operation on the American theatre in which the Naval and Land forces of His Most Christian Majesty could be combined; but such is the state of our finances, such the backwardness of the States to Establish funds.

[60] The brevet rank of maréchal de camp.

and such the distress of the Army for want of them, that I dare give no pointed assurances of effectual cooperation lest I should, unintentionally, be guilty of deception, especially as my estimates and sentiments respectg. the ensuing Campaign are now pending before Congress for decision. Last year, while I had the prospect of a vigorous campaign before me (founded on the hope of Succours from your Court) I took a comprehensive view of the Enemies Situation and our own; arranged the whole under different heads, and digested plans of attack applicable to each; this I have put into the hands of Colo. Gouvion to Copy for you; and with the alterations occasioned by the change of circumstances, and such other information as you will receive from this Letter and from him will enable you to judge as fully as I can do (in my present state of incertitude) which can be attempted with such a force as you can bring at either of the places mentioned therein.

No requisitions by Congress, have yet been made of the States for Men; whether this proceeds from the present state of the public funds and little prospect of bettering them, or the hope of Peace, or partly from both, does not lye with me to decide; but so the fact is; so far indeed were they from requiring men to recruit the Battalions of last year that several of them have been reduced, and the Non-Commissioned and privates incorporated in the respective State lines. This however has not otherwise reduced our efficient force than by the diminution of Commissioned Offices; but all Corps that are not fed with Recruits must dwindle, from the deaths, desertions, and discharges incident to them; the last of which you well know, operates more powerfully in our Army than most others. Our present force, tho small in number is excellent in composition; and may be depended upon as far as the first are competent. About June the *total* of *this Army*, exclusive of *Commissioned*

Officers may be computed at 9000 and by October it will have decreased near 1000 Men by the discharge of so many whose term of Service will have expired.

I am impressed with a belief that *no* Militia could be drawn out *previous* to the arrival of a French fleet, and Land force on the Coast. I am not *sanguine* that *many* could be had afterwards; but certain it is, there would be great difficulty in subsisting and providing for them, if it should be found necessary to call for their aid; hence it appears, that little or no dependence is to be placed on any other Troops than the Continentals of this Army. These would require very little previous Notice for an Operation against New York, which is the only Post of importance the enemy have within the United States; and indeed the only one against which they could move for want of transportation, or the means to obtain it.

Penobscot is a secondary object; unassailable but by means of a Naval superiority, with wch. the place might soon be carried without the aid of American Troops; to call for which would spread the alarm and waste time for an unnecessary purpose.

Motives, My dear Marqs, of friendship and candor have given birth to the freedom of this communication, on my part; good sense and prudence will point it to proper objects, on yours; and on your honor and discretion I can firmly rely.

It only remains for me to add, for your further information, that since May last (when my thoughts on the plan of Campaign for 1782 were digested as they are now sent to you) Charles Town and Savanna having been evacuated; and Troops (Recruits principally) having arrived from Europe; the Enemies Posts have been strengthened. New York agreeably to the Estimates of General Greene and Major Burnett which I inclose by 3000 men; Hallifax and Canada from European and other Accts; by the like number, and Penobscot by 3 or 400

more; these being the only changes which have happened since my statement of the Enemys force in May last, you will be able to bring the whole into one view and determine accordingly. It is reported that a number (some say seven) British Regiments are about to Embark for the West Indies; by other accts. the whole are said to be going thither but there is not I believe, any orders for either yet come to hand; in this memr. everything with them is suspended.

Your polite and friendly offer to my Nephew, claims my grateful acknowledgments; I wish he was in a condition to avail himself of it. He has been in a declining state of health near 12 Months; but was something better the last time I heard from him.

McHenry has left the Military and embraced a Civil walk of life; by which act he has disqualified himself from answering your purposes.

The Vessel you gave us room to expect, is not arrived; but Gouvion will go to Philadelphia and seek a passage from thence. He can tell you more forcibly than I can express it how much we all love and wish to embrace you; when, how, or where this will happen you best can tell. for myself particularly, I hope it is unnecessary to repeat to you, that whether during the continuance of the War, or after the olive branch shall have extended itself over this Land (for which I most devoutly pray) I shall be happy to see you on Columbias shore. The Inhabitants of my humble Cottage will salute you with the richest marks of grateful friendship wch. to a mind susceptible as yours is will be a greater feast than the luxuries of the East; the Elegancies of Europe, or the ceremonies of a Court can afford. Adieu, believe me always etc.

PS. Under cover of this Letter, you will receive a duplicate of the one written to you by the Chevr. Chattellux, and a Copy of my letter to Congress approving your conduct.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, March 23, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 21st was delivered me last Evening.

You will please to give Capt. Douglass[61] permission to pass within the Enemys Lines, agreeable to his recommendation from Majr. Turner. But you will, as from me, declare positively to Capt Douglass, that the proposed Communication for Exchange of Marine prisoners mentioned by him to be opened by way of Elizabeth Town, will not by any Means meet my Consent, and that no other places than those now permitted, will be admitted by me. Vizt Dobbs's Ferry and New Bridge.

I have no Objections to your proposed Visit to Camp; you will please to use your own Time for the purpose. The sendg on to Philadelphia, of the Money you have in Hand, may probably be negotiated without much Trouble, with either the Contractors or Paymaster; this you will be able to do, when you come to Camp. I am &c.[62]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 24, 1783.

Sir: In order to facilitate and expedite the communication between the Post of Dobbs Ferry and Head Quarters (which must be kept up principally by Runners) I have to request you will give Orders for forwarding expeditiously by a trusty Non Commissd. Officer or Soldier as far as Kings Ferry (where the senior Officer has Instructions on the subject) all Dispatches

[61] Capt. Thomas Douglass, of the Continental Artillery. He had retired in January, 1783; was captain of U. S. artillery in August, 1784; served to October, 1785.

[62] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

from Head Quarters to Dobbs Ferry; and also that you will send to Head Quarters by the same mode of conveyance or in any manner you may judge best, all Letters, Papers, and Dispatches coming from the Lines or Advanced Posts, addressed to me, or either of the Gentlemen of my Family. I am etc.[63]

[MS. H. S.]

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE[64]

Head Quarters, March 24, 1783.

Sir: On representation to the General, of the conduct of Captn. Riley[65] of the Invalid Corps, and complaint from the Regt. of a Stoppage of their pay from you on that Account, His Excellency has given Instructions to Colo. Nicola, to have Capt. Riley arrested, and brought to Trial for the Impropriety of his conduct; and in the mean time it is his Excellency's pleasure, that you proceed in granting pay to the Regiment, supposing that you will be refunded your advancement to Captn. Riley. I am etc.[66]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, March 24, 1783.

Parole Nyack. Countersigns Oysters, Pray.

For the day tomorrow { Major Lansdale. / B. Q. M. Jersey Brigade.

It is recommended to the troops to make regimental Gardens for the purpose of raising Greens and vegetables for their

[63] In the writing of David Humphreys.

[64] Deputy Paymaster General.

[65] Capt. John Reiley (Riley), of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Bonhampton, N. J., in April, 1777; was transferred to the Invalid Corps in August, 1780; served to June, 1783.

[66] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. T. ——ll."

own use, And in order to collect a sufficient quantity of Seeds, Commanding officers of regiments will give passes to as many trusty soldiers as they may Judge necessary to go into the Country, and be absent, not exceeding ten day's.

The General hopes he shall see a suitable attention bestowed on an article which will contribute so much to the comfort and health of the troops. He even flatters himself it will become a matter of amusement and of emulation.

The Quarter Master General is also desired to advertize in the Newspapers, giving proper invitation and encouragement to those who who may be disposed to send or bring in Garden seeds of all kinds to his Office, which will be equitably divided and faithfully applied to the use of the soldiery.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, March 25, 1783.

Sir: I have this Day received your favor of the 23d. instant.

It gives me pain that you have made a Request which I am unable to gratify. But my Duty obliges me to inform you, that the Request is of such a nature, as I have never complied with in any one Instance, nor do I think, that, while under our present Circumstances, It will ever permit me to grant it on any similar one.

If the Introduction of Merchandize from within the Enemy's Lines, is in any Case admissible, I conceive that the Legislature or executive of the State into which they are meant to be bro't, are the only competent Judges of its propriety. If those

On March 24 Robert R. Livingston wrote to Washington, by express, that peace had been declared. "The Vessel that brought these dispatches was sent out by the Count Destaign to recall the french cruizers. . . . France by getting little for herself has laid in a store of reputation which will be worth more than much territory. . . . I have with the approbation of Congress despatched Mr Lewis Morris my secretary to Genl. Carleton with the news of peace." Livingston's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

powers will not permit such request, it is certainly not consistent with my Duty, to grant an Indulgence, which they reject. I am etc.[67]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, March 25, 1783.

Parole Quadruple. Countersigns Rotterdam, Scotland.

For the day tomorrow { Major Reading. / B. Q. Mr. York brigade.

The Maryland Detachment gives the Guards tomorrow.

The Jersey regiment gives the fatigues

By the United States in Congress Assembled, March 18th. 1783.

On the report of a committee to whom was referred a letter of the 12, from the Commander in Chief.

Ordered, That the Superintendant of finance lay before Congress an account of the payments made to the army, in consequence of the resolution of the 25 day of January last, and what sums the state of the public finances will enable him to pay to the army at present; and also that he communicate to Congress what steps have been taken towards settling the accounts of the army since the said resolution.

The Newhampshire regiment will march on thursday next, to relieve the third Massa. regimt. on the Lines.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, March 25, 1783.

Sir: It is more than probable that the Orders to Sir Guy Carleton by the last Packet, are decisive as to the Evacuation or holding N York.

As it is important to our Operations to have as early knowledge of this Determination as possible, and having great Dependance on your Channel of Intelligence, I am anxious to have you exert your most diligent Endeavours, to obtain all the

[67] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Information you can, of what is passing in N York since the Arrival of the Packet. What is the Genl Rumour; what their Movements or Operations; the state and No of their Transports, and Ships of War; What the Number, State and Situation of their Troops; whether any Embarkation is meditated, and to what part if any. And in General, any Information that may be useful to us in present Circumstances.

The present anxious incertitude as to a general Pacification, renders our watchful Observations of more importance than common; that we may if possible be able to penetrate the Designs of our Enemy. If another Campaign is to be expected, the sooner we are ascertained of its Necessity the Better, that our preparations may be prosecuted with Vigor.

The more frequent and the more particular your Communications are, the more agreeable will they prove. I am &c.[68]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Wednesday, March 26, 1783.

Parole Paris. Countersigns London, Philadelphia.

For the day tomorrow Major Fish.
B. Qr. Master Hampshire B.

The Jersey regiment gives the Guards
The Jersey Battalion the Fatigues } tomorrow

*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Newburgh, March 26, 1783.

My dear Knox: Such as *I* have, I give unto *thee*. God grant the News may be true. But whether it is, or not, the late con-

[68] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

duct of the Army will redound to the immortal honor of it.[69] Yrs. etc.[70]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, March 27, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Baltic, Calais.

For the day tomorrow { Major Rice. / B. Q. M. 1st. Mass. Brigade.

For duty the 1st. York regiment.

At the general courtmartial of which Colonel M. Jackson is president, Mr. Samuel Evans, Forage Master, charged,

1st. With making false charges of the Issues of forage to divers officers of the Army.

2ndly. With making false returns of his Issues.

3dly. With forging receipts to be produced as Vouchers for his Issues of forage was tried.

The Court on consideration are of opinion that the 1st. and 2d. charges against Mr. Evans are supported; on the 3d. charge they are of opinion that Mr. Evans put a fictitious name to a receipt for a quantity of forage to be produced as a Voucher; but it appears at the same time that the hay was received; the Court, as they think Mr. Evans's Conduct proceeded more from neglect and Inattention, than an intention, to defraud, only sentence him to be mulched three months pay.

The General approves the opinion of the court; but is induced, from the representations which have been made of the good character of Mr. Evans, to remit the sentence.

[69] No letter from Knox explanatory of this is now found in the *Washington Papers*. It may refer to the receipt of the news of the resolve of Congress of March 22, continuing the officers then in the Army in service to the end of the war and granting them 5 years full pay with 6 per cent interest, in lieu of half-pay for life.

[70] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Gabriel Welles, of Ridgefield, Conn.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Dear Sir: Since you left me, a Servant of the Marquis de la Fayette has arrived with Dispatches. The Marquis sent him in the Packet from Cadiz. I enclose a summary of the Articles as published in Philadelphia; also a Copy of the Communication from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and an Extract of a Letter from His Excellency the Minister of France for your satisfaction.

It likewise gives me great pleasure to have received the following Assurance from a Gentleman in Congress. "The measures of the Army are such as I could have wished them, and will add lustre to their character as well as strengthen the hands of Congress." With the greatest regard etc.[71] [MS.H.S.]

To CAPTAIN GEORGE HURLBUT

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency, sensible of your Merits, and attentive to your wishes, desires me to reply to your Letter of Yesterday: and to inform you that he will take much pleasure in contributing, by any Means in his power, to alliviate your Misfortunes; and will most readily comply with your Requests.

A few Days will determine whether it will be necessary to obtain from Sir Guy Carleton or Admiral Digby, passports for your going by Water to N London: should Circumstances require it, no delay will be made to prevent your being furnished by the Time you mention. The Q. M Genl will have Orders to procure a Suitable Vessel, and your Friend Mr Colfax[72] will be permitted to attend you.

[71] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[72] Capt. William Colfax.

During your Stay in this Neighbourhood, if the Genl Stores can furnish any little Comfitures to supply your Desire or gratify your Wishes, you have only to hint your Wants, and they will be cheerfully attended to. I am etc.[73]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, March 27, 1783.

Dr Sir: I take the first moment of forwardg to your Excellency, the Dispatches of the Secry of Foreign Affairs; which contain, I presume, all the Intelligence respecting Peace, on which happy and glorious Event, permit me to congratulate you with the greatest sincerity. With perfect respect etc.[74]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, March 28, 1783.

Parole peace. Countersigns Independence, Plenty.

Officers for the day tomorrow { Major Scott. / B. Q. M. 3d. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 2d. York regiment

Altho' the public dispatches from our Commissioners in Europe have not arrived, and the Commander in Chief has it not in his power to announce officially a general Peace to the Army, yet he cannot resist the pleasure of communicating the happiness he experiences from a certainty of that Event, and for the satisfaction of every brave officer and soldier under his command he orders the following Extract of a Letter from his Excellency the Minister of France to be made public.

Philadelphia, March 24, 1783.

Sir: It is with the most lively and sincere joy that I have the honor to inform your Excelly. of the conclusion of a peace. It crowns in the

[73] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. T——ll."
[74] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

most happy manner, your labours, and the efforts of the United States; you will sincerely participate the compleat satisfaction that this event gives me, and I take the greatest possible share in the pleasure it will afford you. I have not yet received this news officially, but it is not the less certain, and I pray you to permit me to offer the officers of your Army, and all the American troops my congratulations and the tribute of respect due to their virtue and Courage.

Also the subsequent extract of a Letter of the same date from the Secretary of Foreign affairs, is ordered to be communicated.

Dear Sir: You will by this Express receive the agreable intelligence of peace, upon which I most sincerely congratulate you and the Army.

In this state of affairs the Commander in chief is pleased to direct that all military Arrangements shall continue the same as at present untill further Orders, that no relaxation in the Decipline or police of the Army shall be suffered, and that the greatest attention shall be paid to the good order and appearance of the troops.

For the greater convenience of the officers of this Army, the Packet boat for Westpoint will leave Newburgh at half after nine and proceed to New Windsor, which place She will leave at ten o'clock every day.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

Sir: The News of a general Peace,[75] which your Excellency has been so good as to enounce to me, has filled my Mind with inexpressible satisfaction; and permit me to add, that the Joy I feel on this great Event, is doubly enhanced by the very obliging Manner in which you have been pleased to express your Congratulations to me and to the Army, on this very happy occasion.

[75] The term "general peace" does not accurately describe this news, which was the intelligence of the signing of the declarations of the suspension of hostilities Jan. 20, 1783.

The part your Excellency has acted in the Cause of America, and the great and benevolent share you have taken, in the Establishment of her Independence, is deeply impressed in my Mind; and will not be effaced from my Remembrance, or that of the Citizens of America, but with the latest Hand of Time. You will accept Sir! my warmest Acknowledgments and Congratulations, with Assurances, that I shall always participate, with the sincerest pleasure, in every Event, which contributes to your happiness and Satisfaction.

The Articles of general Treaty, do not appear so favorable to France, in point of Territorial acquisition, as they do to the other powers: But, the magnanimous and disinterested Scale of Conduct which that great Nation has exhibited to the World, during this War, and at the Conclusion of Peace, will insure to the King and Nation, that Reputation which will be of more Consequence to them than every other Consideration.

Mrs. Washington begs your Excellency, to accept her sincerest Thanks for the Joy you have communicated to her, and to accept a Return of her Congratulations on this most happy of all Events. With the highest Sentiments of Respect etc.[76]

*To ARTHUR LEE

Newburgh, March 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honoured with your favor of the 13th. and thank you for the information; your Corrispondent at Paris had good ground for his opinion, and we have abundant reason to be pleased at the event, which he predicted the near approach of. I heartily congratulate you on the conclusion of the War, and hope the Wisdom of the States will point to that line of policy which will make them a great, a happy People;

[76] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

to accomplish this, local politics, and unreasonable jealousies should yield to such a constitution as will embrace the whole and make our Union respectable, lasting, without it, I think we have spent our time, spilt our blood, and wasted our treasure to very little purpose.

The Picaroons[77] in Chesapeake and the Waters of it, have now met their quietus; but previously to the News of Peace, a representation of their conduct had gone into New York, and orders, I believe, were sent for the recall of them.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in Complimts. to you and I have the honor etc.

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

My dear Sir: Your obliging Letter of the 24 was delivered me the day before Yesterday and accompanied the Account of a General Peace having been concluded in Europe on the 20 of January last. Most sincerely do I accept your Congratulations on this happy Event which has already diffused a General Joy thro' every Class of People and to none more than to the Army. It will now be our own faults if we do not enjoy that happiness which we have flattered ourselves this Event would bring; to see, such measures taken as will ensure this, is all that remains for me to wish; I shall then enjoy in the bosom of my family, a felicity that will amply repay every care.

[In a Letter I received by the Cutter from the Marqs. De la Fayette dated Cadiz Feby. 5th. is this passage.

Independent of my public letter to Mr. Livingston, there is a private one which he will also communicate, amongst the many favors which I have received, I would take it as a most flattering circumstance in my life

[77] Lee calls them "Refugees" in his letter of March 13, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

to be sent to England with the ratification of the American Treaty; you know it is but an honorary Commission, that would require the attendance of a few Weeks, and if any Sedentary Minister is sent, I should have the pleasure of introducing him; this, my dear General is entirely confidential.

From hence, I suppose it is necessary for Congress to ratifie the treaty of Peace entered into by their Commissioners at Paris to give it the form and solemnity which is essential to such a work, and that the Marqs. wishes for the honor of putting the last hand to this business by being the bearer of the Ratification. How far it is consistent with our National honor, how far motives of policy make for or agst. sending a foreigner with it; or how far such a measure might disappoint the expectations of others, I pretend not to determine but if there is no impropriety, or injustice in it, I should hope that Congress would feel a pleasure in gratifying the wishes of a Man who has been such a Zealous labourer in the cause of this Country. Whether the above paragraph was only meant to bring me acquainted with what he had done, or that I might second his views, I know not, therefore, notwithstanding the injunction I have given these Sentiments.]

Your Letters for Governor Clinton were forwarded by Express immediately on the rect. of them. I am &c.[78]

To SAMUEL ADAMS AND TRISTRAM DALTON

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your joint Letter of the 10th instant.

Happy, inexpressibly happy, in the certain Intelligence of a general Peace, which was concluded on the 20th Janry. I feel

[78] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

an additional pleasure in reflecting that this glorious Event will prove a sure means to dispel the Fears expressed by your Commonwealth for their North Eastern Boundary. that Territory being by the Treaty secured to the United States, in its full Extent.

[I have to thank you for doing me the justice to believe that my attention to all parts of the United States is extended in proportion to the magnitude of the object and that no partial considerations have any influence on my conduct.]

You will permit me Gentlemen, on this occasion, to express my warmest Congratulations to you; to the Senate and Representatives of your Commonwealth, and thro' them, to all its good Citizens; whose prompt Exertions in the general Cause, have contributed largely towards the Attainment of that great Prize, for which the United States have so long and successfully Contended. I am &c.[79]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, March 29, 1783.

Parole America. Countersigns Triumphant, Happy.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Col. Brooks. / B. Q. M. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

The Hampshire Battalion gives the Guards.

The Commander in Chief has the pleasure to lay before the Army an Extract of a Letter he has received (since the publication of the orders of yesterday) from his Excellency the president of Congress.

Philadelphia, March 23, 1783, 9 o'clock p. m.

Sir: Your Excellency will give me the utmost credit, when I assure you, that it is with the most unfeigned joy that I congratulate your Excellency

[79] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The part in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

and the whole Army on the confirmation of the seigning of the definitive[80] treaty of Peace, by all the belligerent powers on the 21st of January. This happy event has just been announced by an express from on board a sloop of war in the river, dispatched by the Count D Estang and the Marquis de la Fayette from Cadiz, on the 14th of February in hopes that she might arrive before those sent from France and Britain.

These are not Official Dispatches, but as there can be no doubt of the Event, I thought it of the highest consequence to give your Excellency and my fellow Citizans of the Army the earliest Notice of this glorious end of all their Toils and labours.

I duly received your Excellencys Letters by the Express, containing the proceedings of the Army which gave Congress and every friend to the Army the highest satisfaction.

The commutation of the half-pay was passed yesterday by Nine states in Congress which adds greatly to our general joy.

For the further gratification of the Gentlemen of the Army a printed paper is left at the Orderly office containing the declaration of His Excellency the Minister of France, in consequence of the orders to the Chevalier Du Quesne.[81]

The paymaster General being authorized to settle the recruiting accounts of the Army, the regimental paymasters accounts, the depreciation on the subsistence of the officers from June 1st, 1778. and the pay and subsistence of the Army for the years 1780. 1781. and 1782. and having opened an office for that purpose at Mr. Bedlows.[82] The regimental Pay masters and other officers concerned will call on him to receive directions concerning the manner of making out the pay rolls and Abstracts.

[80] The term "definitive" treaty is commonly applied to the treaty of Sept. 3, 1783, between the United States and Great Britain. The treaty (so-called) signed Jan. 20 (not 21), 1783, was the declarations of a cessation of hostilities on the part of Great Britain and the United States, signed by Alleyne Fitz-Herbert, Minister Plenipotentiary for Great Britain, and John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, Ministers Plenipotentiary for the United States.

[81] Pierre Claude, Marquis Du Quesne, who commanded the *Triomphe*, which brought the news of the signing of the declarations of the cessation of hostilities.

[82] William Bedlow.

Lieutenant Edward Phelon of the 4th. Massachusetts regiment is appointed Aid de Camp to Brigadier General Patterson and is to be respected accordingly. This appointment to take effect from the first day of January last.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, March 30, 1783.

Parole Deposite. Countersigns Engage, Funds.

For tomorrow { Major Oliver. / B. Q. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

For duty the 1st. Massachusetts regiment.

The honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolves:

By the United States in Congress assembled, March 22, 1783.

On the report of a committee, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. Dyer, together with the memorial of the officers of the army, and the report of the committee thereon; Congress came to the following resolutions:

Whereas the officers of the several lines under the immediate command of his Excellency General Washington, did, by their late memorial transmitted by their committee, represent to Congress, that the half-pay granted by sundry resolutions, was regarded in an unfavourable light by the citizens of some of these states, who would prefer a compensation for a limitted term of years, or by a sum in gross, to an establishment for life; and did, on that account, solicit a commutation of their half pay for an equivalent, in one of the two modes abovementioned, in order to remove all subject of dissatisfaction from the minds of their fellow-citizens: and whereas Congress are desirous, as well of gratifying the reasonable expectations of the officers of the army, as of removing all objections which may exist in any part of the United States, to the principle of the half pay establishment, for which the faith of the United

On March 29 Washington wrote briefly to Du Portail acknowledging his congratulations on the news of peace. "The terms are extremely satisfactory to me and I am as pleased as possible that the great work is so happily consumated." This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

states hath been pledged; persuaded that those objections can only arise from the nature of the compensation, not from any indisposition to compensate those, whose services, sacrifices and sufferings, have so just a title to the approbation and rewards of their country: Therefore,

Resolved, That such officers as are now in service and shall continue therein to the end of the war, shall be entitled to receive the amount of five years' full pay in money, or securities on interest at six per cent. per annum, as Congress shall find most convenient, instead of the half pay promised for life, by the resolution of the 21 day of October 1780; the said securities to be such as shall be given to other credittors of the United States, provided that it be at the option of the lines of the respective states, and not of officers individually in those lines, to accept or refuse the same; and provided also that their election shall be signifyed to Congress through the Commander in Chief, from the lines under his immediate command, within two months, and through the commanding officer of the southern army, from those under his command, within six months from the date of this resolution.

That the same commutation shall extend to the corps not belonging to the lines of particular states, and who are entitled to half pay for life as aforesaid; the acceptance or refusal to be determined by corps, and to be signifyed in the same manner, and within the same time as above mentioned: That all officers belonging to the hospital department, who are entitled to half pay by the resolution of the 17th day of January, 1781, may collectively agree to accept or refuse the aforesaid commutation, signifying the same through the Commander in Chief within six months from this time: That such officers as have retired at different periods, entitled to half pay for life, may collectively, in each State of which they are inhabitants, accept or refuse the same; their acceptance or refusal to be signifyed by agents authorized for that purpose, within six months from this period; that with respect to such retiring officers, the commutation, if accepted by them, shall be in lieu of whatever may be now due to them since the time of their retiring from service, as well as of what might hereafter become due; and that so soon as their acceptance shall be signifyed, the Superintendent of finance be, and he is hereby directed to take measures for the settlement of their accounts accordingly, and to issue to them certificates bearing interest at six per cent. That all officers entitled to half pay for life not included in the preceeding resolution, may

also agree collectively agree to accept or refuse the aforesaid commutation signifying the same within six months from this time.

The Commander in Chief desires the officers immediately concerned will defer reporting their election on the subject of the foregoing act untill the 15th. of April by which time the officers now absent on furlow will have returned, and it will be expected that the reports of the several Lines and corps not belonging to the Line of any State which compose this Army shall be lodged at Head Quarters as soon after as conveniently may be.

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, March 30, 1783.

Sir: The News of Peace (tho not official) is nevertheless so positive and the certainty that Hostilities were to cease in America on the 20th of this Month is so great, that the Commander in Chief has no hesitation in Ordering the Waggons, Horses, Drivers and every thing captured to be given up and returned to the British Lines, without the least injury or delay. I am etc.[83]

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

(Private)

Newburgh, March 30, 1783.

Dear Sir: I was upon the point of closing the Packet which affords a cover to this Letter when the Baron de Steuben arrived and put your obliging favor of the 17th. Instt. into my hands. I read it with great pleasure and gratitude, and beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken to communicate the several matters therein contained many parts of which 'till then were altogether New to me.[84]

[83] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A D C."

[84] Boudinot's letter of March 17, which is 11 pages long, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Your Excellency will very highly honor and oblige me by a continuation of the friendly and confidential intercourse you have begun and you may rest assured that every part there of which you mark *private* shall remain inviolably secret.

As the bearer (in the Clothing department) is waiting, I have not time to enlarge. I could not suffer him however to depart without this acknowledgment of your letter, and testimony, of my respect; with Mrs. Washington's Compliments united with mine to Mrs., Miss Boudinot and yourself I have the honor etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 30, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency will permit me, with the most lively sensations of gratitude and pleasure, to return you my warmest Thanks for the Communication, you have been pleased to make to me and the Army, of the glorious News of a General Peace; an Event, which cannot fail to diffuse a general Joy throughout the United States: but to none of their Citizens a greater Share, than to the Officers and Soldiers, who now compose the Army. It is impossible for me to express the Effusion of Joy, with which I beg your Excellency, to accept a Return of my sincerest Congratulations on this happiest of Events.

The Commutation of the Half Pay, and Measures adopted for the liquidation of their Accounts, will give great satisfaction to the Army; and will prove an additional Tie to strengthen their Confidence in the Justice, and benevolent Intentions of Congress towards them. I have the Honor etc.[85]

[85] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On March 30 Trumbull wrote to Governor Clinton requesting the governor to advise what action should be taken in the case of New York citizens captured under circumstances stated in a letter which Trumbull inclosed. Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*. The men taken were Benjamin Stevens, Obadiah Valentine, and Solomon Palmer, of Crompond, and Tobias Barr, of New York City.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received information that Captain Ogden of the Jersey Line has lately been into the City of New York. As I conceive there is a great Military impropriety in such conduct unless he had proper authority for the purpose, and as I am totally unacquainted with any permission he could have had, I must request you will please to order him to the Army immediately, that public investigation may be made into the matter, unless satisfactory reasons can be given for the unprecedented conduct he has adopted. I am etc.[86]

P. S. Being informed by the official Proceedings which have come into my hands that Colo Ogden is not now employed on public business I wish to know the occasion of his absence at a time when another field Officer in the same Regt. had leave of absence from the 1st of Janry to the 15th of April.[87]

To THEODORICK BLAND

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: The Article in the provisional Treaty respecting Negroes, which you mentiond to Sir Guy Carleton, had escaped my Notice, but upon a recurrence to the Treaty, I find it as you have stated. I have therefore tho't it may not be amiss to send your Letter to Sir Guy, and have accordingly done it. Altho I have several Servants in like predicament with yours, I have not yet made any attempt for their recovery. Sir Guy Carleton's reply to you, will decide upon the propriety or expediency

[86] Captain Ogden explained in a letter to Washington, dated April 6, and on April 12 Trumbull wrote Ogden that the Commander in Chief "from his former good Opinion of you as an Officer . . . is willing to look upon your going into N York . . . as a Step of Inadvertence." Trumbull's draft and Ogden's letter of April 6 are in the *Washington Papers*.

[87] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

of any pursuit to obtain them. If that reply should not be transmitted thro my Hands, I will thank you for a Communication of it. With much Regard etc.[88]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to inclose to you a letter from the Marquis de la fayette, which came under cover to me, by the Packet Triumph, dispatched by the Marquis and the Count de Estaing from Cadiz to Phila.

All the Accounts which this Vessel has bro't, of a Conclusion of a General Peace, you will receive before this can reach you.

You will give the highest Credit to my Sincerity, when I beg you to accept my warmest Congratulations on this glorious and happy Event, an Event which crowns all our Labors and will sweeten the Toils which we have experienced in the Course of Eight Years distressing War. The Army here, universally participate in the general Joy which this Event has diffused, and, from this Consideration, together with the late Resolutions of Congress, for the Commutation of the Half pay, and for a Liquidation of all their Accounts, their Minds are filled with the highest Satisfaction. I am sure you will join with me in this additional occasion of joy.

It remains only for the States to be Wise, and to establish their Independence on that Basis of inviolable efficacious Union, and firm Confederation, which may prevent their being made the Sport of European Policy; may Heaven give them Wisdom to adopt the Measures still necessary for this important Purpose. I have the honor etc.[89]

[88] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

[89] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS ARNOLD

Head Quarters, March 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 18th instant.

No alteration in the Corps of Invalids has taken place, since your being with them. The Secretary at War, had in Contemplation to make some Reform, but nothing is yet effected; and it is doubtful, whether any thing will soon be done.

In consideration of your peculiar Misfortune,[90] and the Situation of Affairs at the present conjuncture, you will please to look on your furlough as extended to such Time, as you may receive particular Orders for your future Conduct. I am etc.[91]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, March 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favors of the 17th. and 24th. Ulto. I rejoice most exceedingly that there is an end to our Warfare, and that such a field is opening to our view as will, with wisdom to direct the cultivation of it, make us a great, a respectable, and happy People; but it must be improved by other means than State politics, and unreasonable jealousies and prejudices; or (it requires not the second sight to see that) we shall be instruments in the hands of our Enemies, and those European powers who may be jealous of our greatness in Union to dissolve the confederation; but to attain this, altho' the way seems extremely plain, is not so easy.

My wish to see the Union of these States established upon liberal and permanent principles, and inclination to contribute my mite in pointing out the defects of the present Constitution, are equally great. All my private letters have teemed with

[90] Noted on the draft as "short of a Leg."

[91] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

these Sentiments, and whenever this topic has been the subject of conversation, I have endeavoured to diffuse and enforce them; but how far any further essay by me might be productive of the wished for end, or appear to arrogate more than belongs to me, depends so much upon popular opinions, and the timper and dispositions of People, that it is not easy to decide. I shall be obliged to you however for the thoughts which you have promised me on this Subject, and as soon as you can make it convenient.

No Man in the United States is, or can be more deeply impressed with the necessity of a reform in our present Confederation than myself. No Man perhaps has felt the bad effects of it more sensibly; for the defects thereof, and want of Powers in Congress, may justly be ascribed the prolongation of the War, and consequently the expenses occasioned by it. More than half the perplexities I have experienced in the course of my command, and almost the whole of the difficulties and distress of the Army, have their origin here; but still the prejudices of some, the designs of others, and the mere Machinery of the Majority, makes address and management necessary to give weight to opinions which are to Combat the doctrines of those different classes of Men, in the field of Politics.

I would have been more full on this subject but the bearer (in the Clothing department) is waiting. I wish you may understand what I have written. I am etc.

P. S. The inclosed extract of a Letter to Mr Livingston, I give you in confidence; I submit it to your consideration, fully perswaded that you do not want inclination to gratify the Marquis's Wishes as far as is consistent with our National honor.[92]

[92] The original is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. The extract, which accompanies this letter, is that portion of Washington's letter to Robert R. Livingston, Mar. 29, 1782, which is inclosed in brackets, *q. v.*

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, March 31, 1783.

Parole Gratitude. Countersigns Harmony, Industry.

For the day tomorrow Major Trescot.
B. Q. M. York Brigade.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

Seven men including two of the best Masons and one Carpinter are to be sent from each Brigade to the New building tomorrow morning 8 o'clock to continue as long as wanted.

The Commanding officer on the Lines will order one company to releive the Detachment from Hazens regt. at the Blockhouse of Dobbs ferry. The officer commanding the Company posted at the block house will take his orders from Lieutenant Colonel Smith.

Colonel H. Jackson is appointed President, Majors Fish and Rice with two Captains from the Jersey, one from the York, two from the first, three from the second and two from the third Massachusetts Brigades, members of a General court-martial to assemble at the Newbuilding tomorrow morning ten o'clock, for the trial of such persons as shall be brought before them.

The Commander in Chief, accepts and confirms the following Report:

The Board appointed by the orders of Brigadier General Putnam the 23d. instant to revise and determine the relative rank of Captains Sylvanus Smith and Burnham of the Massachusetts Line and such others as are connected with them in the decision have attended that duty and as there unanimous opinion, Report:

That Captain Burnam ought to take rank of Captain Smith. That as it appears to the board that Captain Smith received

his appointment as Captain sometime in the month of February 1777 and as by a Resolve of Congress of the first of April the same year, no officer can take rank by virtue of an antedated Commission it is their further unanimous opinion, that Captain Smith ought to rank in the Line of Massachusetts Captains, next immediately preceding Captain Dix,[93] and after Captain Marshall,[94] as the arrangement of Captains now stands.

The Inspection and Muster of the Troops of this Cantonment and the Garrison of Westpoint for the month of march will take place on the following days vizt. The Jersey Brigade on the 7th. of April; York do. 8th; 3d. Massachusetts 9th; 1 do. 10th; 2do. 11th; 1 Connectt. regt. and Cranes Arty 14th; 3d. do., Lambs Arty. Invalids &ca. 15th; 2d. Connectt. regt. 16th.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, April 1, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your two favors of the 19th and 26th inst. The favorable disposition of Congress expressed in their late Acts appears to be highly satisfactory to the Army.

My Papers for last year not being with me I cannot recur to the Letters which have passed on the subject I am about to mention; but I recollect it was proposed some time since to alter the military Establishment so far as related to the institution of Lt Colonels Commandant; and that for certain reasons I gave it as my opinion the Alteration had better be postponed until after the Reformation which was to take place on the first

[93] Capt. Nathan Dix, of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Third Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[94] Capt. Christopher Marshall, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

of Janry. As the original occasion for that institution has now ceased to exist, as I conceive no reasonable objection can now be made against placing all our Regts under the Command of Colonels, Lt Colonels and Majors, and as it would be a gratification to a number of very meritorious Officers, I could sincerely wish Congress would take the matter up and decide upon it as early as might conveniently be done.

There is another matter I will take the liberty to suggest to you, and to desire you will give me your opinion without reserve on the expediency of it. viz whether there could not be some general Rule devised (without inconvenience or expence to the Public, or detriment to the Service) for giving Brevet Commissions of a superior rank to those they now hold to all such veteran Officers as have served faithfully and bravely in the same grade ever since the first of Janry 1777? For example what difficulties would there be in the way of promoting by Brevet all Lts. of that date now actually in service to the rank of Captns; all Captns of the same date to the rank of Majors; All Majors in the same predicament to be Lt Colonels &c.[95]

Perhaps it will be objected that the number would be too great, perhaps there may be embarrassments or inconveniencies which I have not discovered. Under these considerations I should not urge the prosecution of the Idea; but if those objections or difficulties should not occur, or be found to operate against it; the adoption of the measure would I am persuaded be considered as a just reward to merit, and without encreasing the public expence one farthing, would add greatly to the satisfaction of many very worthy and deserving Characters.

I am informed, by some mistake, the Commissions for the Officers of the York Line (the Certificates for which were

[95] Congress passed such a resolution Sept. 30, 1783.

collected at VerPlanks point last Fall) have not been forwarded with the others, the Gentlemen concerned will be much obliged to you for them. I am etc.[96]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, April 1, 1783.

Parole Kimbolton. Countersigns Limerick, Monmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Major Gibbs. / B. Q. M. Hampshire Brigade.

For duty the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, April 2, 1783.

Parole Nymph. Countersigns Ode, Pendar.

For the day { Lt. Colonel E. Vose. / B. Q. Mr. 1st. Massachusetts Brigade.

For duty the 3d. Massachusetts regiment.

The following principles being adopted in the settlement now commencing with the Army, it is desired that they be attended to by the officers concerned viz. First: The Accounts to be made out regimentally and include every officer and soldier, except those mentioned in the third and fourth articles, following for the time he actually belonged to the regiment. The transfer of officers or soldiers from one regiment to another, is to be noticed in the rolls; and the pay accordingly to cease in the one regiment and commence in the other.

2d. Three regimental rolls to be made out, one to include the time from June 1st. 1778, to August 1, 1780, and another from

[96] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys

August 1st. 1780 to January 1st. 1782, and the other for the year 1782, which are to be seigned by the paymaster and officer who commanded the regt., as far as it can be done.

3d. The officers who have been prisoners to be settled with for the time they were prisoners, individually and not in the Regiments.

4th. Regimental officers while they acted in the staff of the Army are also to be setled with individually on Certificates from the heads of the Departments in which they served.

5. The officers and men of the Commander in chiefs Guard to be setled with in their respective Lines and regiments.

The regimental Pay Masters will call on the Quarter Master Genl. for the necessary paper.

All the Drummers and Fifers in this Cantonment off duty will assemble tomorrow morning ten o'clock at Mr. Hiwells hutt for inspection and further instruction.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, April 3, 1783.

Sir: The Adjt. General transmits you by this conveyance the Order of this date for a Court of Inquiry &c. I shall expect you will forward the Letter addressed to Major Reid with the greatest rapidity it also contains a transcript of the Order.

I consent you should go to Philadelphia for a few days but desire your absence may not be protracted beyond what is absolutely necessary. I am &c.

PS. I intended to have spoken to you respecting relieving Captn. Duncan from the stationary command of the Block House in the Clove; you will please to have it done as soon as may be.[97]

[97] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, April 3, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Ringwood, Sunbury.

For the day tomorrow { Major Knap. / B. Q. Mr. 3d. Brigade.

For duty the 6th. Massachusetts regiment.

Brigadier Genl. Huntington, Colonels Cortlandt, and Nicola, are to constitute a Court of Inquiry to assemble on the 15th. of may next at Westpoint or such place as shall be appointed by the president, and examine into the conduct of Brigadier Genl. Hazen and several officers of his corps relatively to the assertions which have been made concerning them by Major James R. Reid at different times and particularly in his Defence before a General courtmartial in the month of December 1780.

Major Reid and all persons concerned will attend accordingly.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed Copies of a Letter and Papers[98] which came to my Hands last Evening from Sir Guy Carleton: they are of such a Nature, that I have tho't proper they should be communicated to Congress. I give them to your Excellency for that purpose.

Altho the Complaints of the Indians may not be perfectly candid; it will rest with Congress to decide how far, in our present Circumstances, Policy and Humanity coincide, to prevent

[98] The inclosures were copies of Carleton's letter to Waashington, March 31, and an extract of a speech delivered at Niagara, Dec. 11, 1782, to Brigadier General Maclean by Tioguanda, a chief of the Six Nations. The original of Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

as much as possible, the further prosecution of Hostilities against those people. I have only to observe, that the late Acts of Cruelty complained of in the Speech of the Indians, have not been committed under my Direction, or by any parties of Continental Troops; nor have they been sanctified by any Orders from me. I rather think those Acts of Hostility have been conducted with the approbation at least, if not by the Authority of individual States. How far this practice is consistent with the Rules of propriety, or the principles of policy Congress will be the best Judge; for myself, I confess, my Mind revolts at the Idea of those wanton Barbarities which both sides have in too many Instances, been the unhappy Witnesses to. With the highest Respect etc.[99]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 31st Ulto. As no official information of a general Peace has yet arrived, I can undertake to make no definitive arrangements for taking possession of the City of New York, and can only say at present, that, for the reasons you suggest, I think there will be a propriety in your going early into Town, whenever the communication shall be opened, whether with or without Your Detachment will depend upon circumstances, and may be a matter of future consideration. It will not however be amiss for the Troops to have their Cloathing and every Article belonging to them in the best possible Orders.[1] I am &c.[2]

[99] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on April 8 and referred to Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Samuel Osgood.

[1] The principal reason suggested by Tallmadge for going into New York with his detachment among the first was "that particular attention may be paid to certain Characters in New York, who have served us very essentially, and who may otherways be treated amiss." Tallmadge's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[2] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THEODORICK BLAND

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: The Subject of your private Letter,[3] is so important and involves so many Considerations, that I could not hazard my own Opinion *only* for a Reply. I have therefore communicated its Contents to some of the most intelligent, well informed, and confidential Officers, whose Judgment I have consulted, and endeavoured to collect from them, what is the General Sense and Expectation of the [Army] at large, respectg the points you mention. And as this is meant to be equally private and Confidential as yours, I shall communicate my Sentiments to you without Reserve, and with the most intire Freedom.

The Idea of the Officers, in keepg the Army together until Settlement of their Acco. is effected, and *Funds established* for their Security, is perhaps not so extensive, as the Words of their Resolution seem to intimate. When that Idea was first expressed, our prospects of Peace were distant and it was Supposed that Settlement and Funds might both be effected, before a Dissolution of the Army wod. probably take place; they wished therefore to have both [done] at once. But since the Expectation of Peace is bro't so near, however desirable it would be to the Officers to have their Ballances secured to them upon sufficient Funds, as well as their Settlement ascertained; yet it is not in Idea, that the Army should be held together, for the sole Purpose of enforcing either; nor do they suppose, that, by such Means, they could operate on the *Fears* of the civil power, or of the people at large; the impracticability as well as ill policy of such a Mode of Conduct is easily discoverable by every

[3] Bland's letter, undated, but indorsed by Washington: "Supposed 25th March 83," is in the *Washington Papers* under that date.

sensible Intelligent Officer. The Tho't is reprobated as ridiculous and inadmissible.

Tho these are their Ideas on the particular Point you have mentioned, yet they have their Expectations; and they are of a very serious Nature and will require all the Attention and consideration of Congress to gratify them. These I will endeavour to explain, with freedom and Candor.

In the first place, I fix it as an *indipensible* Measure, that previous to the Disbandg the Army, all their Accounts, should be compleatly liquidated and settled; and that every person shall be ascertained of the Ballance due to him. And it is *equally essential,* in my Opinion, that this Settlement should be effected with the Army in its collected Body, without any dispersion of the different Lines to their respective States; for in this [way] the Accounts will be drawn into [one view], properly digested upon one general System, and compared with a variety of Circumstances, which will require References upon a much easier plan than to be diffused over all the States: the Settlements will be effected with greater Ease, in less Time, and with much more Oeconomy in this, than in a scattered Situation. At the same Time, Jealousies will be removed, the Minds of the Army will be impressed with greater Ease and Quiet, and they better prepared, with good Opinions and proper Dispositions to fall back into the great Mass of Citizens.[4]

But after Settlement is formed, there remains another Circumstance of more importance still, and without which it will be of little Consequence to have the Sums due them

[4]At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "In giving this Opinion, I beg that no Idea may be admitted, that the Army would wish to affect the Fears of the Civil Power or of the People at large, by a Desire to remain in an Entire Body to enforce a Settlement, or to demand by violence either payment or Security for the payment of their Ballances; nothing is further from the Thort of every sensible, intelligent Officer who at once perceives that such a Measure would be equally unavailing and impracticible; indeed the very Idea is ridiculous."

ascertained; that is the Payment of some part of the Ballance. The Distresses of Officers and Soldiers are now driven to the extreme and without this provision will not be lessened by the prospect of Dissolution. It is therefore universally expected that three Months pay at least, must be given them before they are disbanded, this Sum it is confidently imagined may be procured, and is absolutely indispensable. They are the rather confirmed in a Belief of the practicability of obtaing it, as the pay of the Army, has formed great part of the Sum in the Estimates which have been Made for the Expences of the War, and altho this has been obliged to give Way to more necessary Claims, yet when those Demands cease, as many will upon the Disbanding the Army, the Pay will then come into View, and have its equal [claim] to Notice. They will not however be unreasonable in this Expectation. If the whole cannot be obtained before they are dispersed, the Receipt of One Month in Hand, with an absolute Assurance of havg the other two Months in a short Time, will be satisfactory; should Mr Morris not be able to assure them the two last Months from the Treasury, it is suggested that it may be obtained in the States, by Drafts from [him] upon their several Continental Receivers, to be collected by the Individual Officers and Soldiers out of the last Years Arrears due from the several States Apportionments, and for which Taxes have long since been Assessed by the Legislatures. This Mode, tho troublesome to the Officer, and perhaps inconvenient for the financier; yet from the Necessity of Circumstances may be adopted, and might be a Means of collectg more Taxes from the people than would in any other Way be done. This is only hinted as an Expedient; the Financier will take his own Measures. But, I repeat it, as an indispensible point, that this Sum at least, must by some Means be procured. without this provision, it will be absolutely impossible for many to get

from Camp, or to return to their friends, and driven to such necessities, it is impossible to foresee what may be the Consequences of their not obtaing it; but the worst is to be apprehended. A Credit, built by their Funds, and such others as have been good eno' to supply their Wants upon the Expectation of being refunded at the Close of the War, out of the large Sums, which by their Toils in the course of many Years hard Service, have become due to them from the public, has supported the greatest Number of them to the present Time, and that Debt now remains upon them. But to be disbanded at last, without this little pittance [(which is necessary to quit Qrs.)] like a Sett of Beggars, Needy, distressed and without Prospect, will not only blast the Expectations of their Creditors, and expose the Officers to the utmost Indignity and the Worst of Consequences, but will drive every Man of Honor and Sensibility to the extremest Horrors of Despair. On the other Hand to give them this Sum, however Small in Comparison of their Dues, yet, by fullfilling their Expectations, will sweeten their Tempers, cheer their hopes of the future, enable them to subsist themselves 'till they can cast about for some future Means of Business; it will gratify their [pressing] Creditors, and will throw the Officer back with Ease and Confidence into the Bosom of this Country, and enable him to mix with Cordiality, and Affection among the Mass of usefull, happy and contented Citizens, an Object of the most desirable importance.

I cannot, at this point of Distance, know the Arrangements of the financier, what have been his Anticipations, or what his prospects; but the necessity of [fulfilling] this Expectation of the Army affects me so exceeding forcibly, that I cannot help dwelling upon it; nor is there in my present apprehension a point of greater Consequence, or that requires more serious attention. Under this Impression I have thot, is a spirited,

pointed, and well adapted Address was framed by Congress and sent to the States on this Occasion, that Gratitude, Justice, Honor, national Pride, and every consideration would operate upon them to strain every Nerve, and exert every Endeavour to throw into the public Treasury, a Sum equal to this Requisition. It cannot be denied, especially when they reflect, how small the Expectation is, compared with the large Sum of Arrears which is due; and 'tho I know that Distinctions are commonly odious, and are looked upon with a jealous and envious Eye, yet it is impossible, that in this Case, it can have this Operation; for whatever the feelings of Individuals at large may be in contemplating on their own Demands, yet upon a candid Comparison, every Man, even the most interested, will be forced to yield to the superior Merit and Sufferings of the Soldier, who for a Course of Years, has contributed his Services in the field, not only at the Expence of his Fortune and former Employment, but at the Risque of Ease, domestic happiness, Comfort and even Life. And all these Considerations, how must he be struck with the Mediocrity of his Demand, when instead of the Pay due him for four, five, perhaps Six Years hard earned Toil and Distress, he is content for the present with receiving three Months only, and is willing to risque the Remainder upon the same Basis of Security, with the general Mass of other public Creditors.

Another Expectation seems to have possessed the Minds of the Officers, That, as the Objects abovementioned are not the only ones which must occupy the Attention of Congress, in Connexion with the Army, it may probably be thort adviseable, that Congress should send to the Army, a respectable, well chosen, and well instructed Committee, of their own Body; with liberal Powers, to confer with the Army, to know their Sentiments, their Expectations, their Distresses, their Necessities,

and the Impossibility of their falling back from the Soldier to Citizenship without some gratification to their most reasonable Demands [this would be considered as a complimt.]; And to add still greater Satisfaction and Advantage, it is thort very adviseable, that the Secretary at War, and the Financier, should be of this Delegation. Previous to a Dissolution of the Army, many arrangements, will doubtless be thort necessary in both those Department, to procure a happy and honorable Close to the War, and to introduce Peace, with a prospect of National Glory, Stability and Benefit. It is not for me to dictate, but I should suppose that some Peace Establishment will be necessary; some posts will be kept up and garrisoned; Arsenals for the Deposite of Ordnance and Military Stores will be determined on, and the Stores collected and deposited. Arrangements will be necessary for the Discharge of the Army, at what periods and under what Circumstances. The Terms of the Soldiers Service are on different Grounds; those for the War will suppose, [and they have a right to do so] their periods of Service to expire at the Close of the War, and Proclamation of Peace; what period shall be fixed for these. The Levy Men [may be] retained [while the British force remain in our Country if it shall be judged advisable]. If I am not consulted in these Matters, it will be necessary for me to have an early knowledge of the Intentions of Congress [on these and many other points. But I can think of no mode so effectual as the one suggested of a Comee. accompanied by the Fr. and Sy. at W.[5] Plans] which to us appear feasible and practicable, [may be attended with insurmountable difficulties. On the other hand measures may be adopted at Philadelphia which cannot be carried into execution: but here in the manner proposed something might be hit upon which would] accommodate itself to

[5] Financier and Secretary at War.

the Ideas of both, with greater Ease and Satisfaction, than may now be expected, and which could not be effected by writing Quires of paper, and spendg a Length of Time.

Upon the whole, you will be able to Collect from the foregoing Sentiments, what are the Expectations of the Army, that they will involve; compleat Settlement, and partial payment, *previous* to any Dispersion (this they suppose may be done within the Time that they must necessarily remain together). Upon the fulfillment of these two, they will readily retire, in full Assurance that ample Security at the earliest period, and on the best Ground it can be had will be obtained for the remainder of their Ballances.

If the Idea of a Committee to Visit the Army should not be adopted, and you find it necessary to pass any further Resolutions, you will easily collect from the foregoing Sentiments, what will be satisfactory, without my troubling you any further.

[I pray you to communicate the Contents of this Letter to Colo. Hamilton, from whom I received a request similar to yours.] I have the honor etc.[6]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, April 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: The same Post which gave me your two letters of the 25th of March, handed me one from Colo. Bland on the

[6]The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

On April 7, before this letter had reached Bland, Congress appointed a committee consisting of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Samuel Osgood, James Wilson, and Oliver Ellsworth to consider the arrangements proper to be taken in case of a general peace. On May 6 Samuel Holton was added to this committee in place of Osgood. On April 9 Hamilton informed Washington of such a committee, and asked for his "sentiments at large on such institutions of every kind, for the interior defence of these states as may be best adapted to their circumstances and conciliate security with œconomy and with the principles of our government. In this they will be glad you will take as great latitude as you may think necessary." (See Washington's letter to Alexander Hamilton, Apr. 16, 1783, *post.*)

same point. Observing that both have been written at the desire of a Committee, of which you are both Members, I have made a very full reply to their subject in my letter which is addressed to Colo. Bland; and Supposing it unnecessary to enter into a complete detail to both, I must beg leave to refer you to Colo. Bland's (a sight of which I have desired him to give you) for a full explanation of my ideas and sentiments.

I read your private letter of the 25th.[7] with pain, and contemplated the picture it had drawn with astonishment and horror; but I will yet hope for the best. The idea of redress by force, is too chimerical to have had a place in the imagination of any serious Mind in this Army; but there is no telling what unhappy disturbances might result from distress, and distrust of justice. and as the fears and jealousies of this Army are all alive, I hope no resolution will be come to for disbanding or seperating the Lines till the accts. are liquidated. you may rely upon it, Sir, that unhappy consequences would follow the attempt. The suspicions of the Officers are afloat, notwithstanding the resolutions which have passed on both sides; any act therefore which can be construed into an attempt to seperate them before the Accts. are settled will convey the most unfavourable ideas of the rectitude of Congress; whether well or ill founded matters not, the consequences will be the same.

I will now, in strict confidence mention a matter which may be useful for you to be informed of, It is that some Men (and

[7] Hamilton's letter of March 25 has been removed from the *Washington Papers* by John C. Hamilton and is now in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. In it Hamilton wrote: "The army by their resolutions express an expectation that Congress will not disband them previous to a settlement of accounts and the establishment of funds. Congress may resolve upon the first, but the general opinion is that they cannot constitutionally declare the second. They have no right by the Confederation to *demand* funds, they can only recommend; and to determine the army shall continue in service 'till the states grant them, would be to determine that the whole present army, shall be a standing army during peace unless the states comply with the requisitions for funds. This it is supposed would excite the alarms and jealousies of the states and increase rather than lessen the opposition to the funding scheme." Washington's letter of April 4 is in the *Hamilton Papers*.

leading ones too) in this Army, are beginning to entertain suspicions that Congress, or some Members of it, regardless of the past sufferings and present distresses, maugre the justice which is due to them, and the returns which a grateful people should make to Men who certainly have contributed more than any other class to the establishment of Independency, are to be made use of as mere Puppets to establish Continental funds; and that rather than not succeed in this measure, or weaken their ground, they would make a sacrifice of the Army and all its interests. I have two reasons for mentioning this matter to you: the one is, that the Army (considering the irritable state it is in, its sufferings and composition) is a dangerous instrument to play with. the other, that every possible means consistent with their own views (which certainly are moderate) should be essayed to get it disbanded without delay. I might add a third: it is that the Financier is suspected to be at the bottom of this Scheme. If sentiments of this sort should become general, their operation would be opposed to this plan; at the same time that it will encrease the present discontents. upon the whole, disband the Army as soon as possible, but consult the wishes of it; which really are moderate, in the mode, and perfectly compatible with the honor, dignity, and justice which is due from the Country. I am &c.

*To THEODORICK BLAND

Newburgh, April 4, 1783.

Dear Sir; On Sunday last the Baron de Steuben handed me your obliging favor of the 22d. Ulto. permit me to offer you my unfeigned thanks for the clear and candid opinions which you have given me of European politics. your reasonings upon the conduct of the different Powers at War would have appeard

conclusive had not the happy event which has been since announced to us, and on which I most sincerely congratulate you, proved how well they were founded. Peace has given rest to speculative opinions respecting the time, and terms of it. the first has come as soon as we could well have expected under the disadvantages we have labd. and the latter, is abundantly satisfactory. It is now the bounden duty of every one, to make the blessing thereof as diffusive as possible.

Nothing would so effectually bring this to pass as the removal of those local prejudices which intrude upon and embarrass that great line of policy which alone can make us a free, happy, and powerful people. Unless our Union can be fixed upon such a basis as to accomplish these ends certain I am we have toiled, bled and spent our treasure to very little purpose.

We have now a National character to establish; and it is of the utmost importance to stamp favourable impressions upon it; let justice then be one of its characteristics, and gratitude another. Public Creditors of every denomination will be comprehended in the first. the Army in a particular manner will have a claim to the latter; to say that no distinction can be made between the claims of public Creditors, is to declare that there is no difference in circumstances or, that the Services of all Men are equally alike. This Army, is of near 8 years standing; 6 of which they have spent in the field, without any other shelter from the inclemency of the Seasons than Tents, or such Houses as they could build for themselves, without expence to the public. they have encountered hunger, cold and Nakedness. they have fought many Battles, and bled freely. they have lived without pay, and in consequence of it, Officers as well as Men have been obliged to subsist upon their Rations: they have often, very often been reduced to the necessity of eating Salt Porke or Beef not for a day or a week only but months together without

Vegetables of any kind or money to buy them; or a cloth to wipe on. Many of them, to do better and to dress as Officers, have contracted heavy Debts, or spent their Patrimonies; the first see the doors of Goals opening to receive them whilst those of the latter are shut against them. Is there no discrimination then, no extra exertion to be made in favor of men under these Circumstances in the hour of their Military dissolution? Or, if no worse comes of it, are they to be turned a drift soured and discontented, complaining of the ingratitude of their Country, and under the irritation of these passions to become fit subjects for unfavourable impressions and unhappy dissentions? for permit me to add, tho' every Man in the Army feels the distress of his situatn it is not every one that reasons to the cause of it.

I would not, from the observatns. here made, be understood to mean that Congress should (because I know they cannot, nor does the Army expect it) pay the full arrearages due to them till Continental or State funds are established for the purpose; they would, from what I can learn, go home contented; nay *thankful,* to receive what I have mentioned in a more public Letter of this date, and in the manner there expressed. and surely this may be effected with proper exertions; or what possibility was there of keeping the Army together if the war had continued when the victualling, clothing and other exps were to have [*sic*][8] Another thing Sir, (as I mean to be frank and free in my communications on this subject) I will not conceal from you, it is dissimilarities in the payments of Men in Civil and Military life. the first receive every thing, the other get nothing, but bare subsistence. They ask what this is owing to? and reasons have been assigned, which say they, amount to this: that Men in Civil life have stronger passions and better pretensions to indulge them or less virtue and regd. for their

[8]The Varick Transcripts has, at this point: "made a Part?"

Country than us; otherwise, as we are all contending for the same prize and equally interested in the attainment of it, why is not the burthen borne equally.

These, and other comparisons, which are unnecessary to enumerate, give a keener edge to their feelings, and contribute not a little to sour their tempers.

As it is the first wish of my Soul to see the war happily and speedily terminated, and those who are now in Arms return to Citizenship with good dispositions, I think it a duty which I owe to candor and to friendship to point you to such things as will have a tendency to harmony and to bring them to pass. With great esteem etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, April 4, 1783.

Parole Tranquility. Countersigns Urbanity, Virginia.

For the day tomorrow { Major Graham. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brigd.

For duty the 2d. Massa. regiment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, April 5, 1783.

Parole Wilton. Countersigns Xerif, Yocum.

For tomorrow { Major Pettengell. / B. Qr. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

For duty the 8th. Massachusetts regiment.

No Amunition to be issued from the Magazine untill further orders.

The Muster and inspection of the Army for the month of March is countermanded untill further orders.

Lieutenant Colonel Cochran, Major Scott and Gibbs, Doctr. Cochran, Director of the Hospitals, with one Hospital surgeon, will constitute a Board to assemble at the Newbuilding on monday next for the inspection of the Invalids belonging to the corps in this Cantonment; the Commanding officers of corps are requested to have the men of their respective Corps who have been returned unfit for duty by the Inspector produced to the Board at the time and place above mentioned. a surgeon or mate to attend with the men of the corps they belong to. The Board will proceed on the principles laid down in the orders of the 3d. of August 1782. and report accordingly.

A Similar Board will meet at West point for the Inspection of the Invalids of that Garrison and Hazens regiment coming under the beforementioned discription as soon as Doctor Cochran can attend, of which he is requested to give Major Genl. Knox notice who will be pleased to order three Field officers for that purpose.

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Qrs., Newburgh, April 5, 1783.

My dear Marqs.: It is easier for you to conceive than for me to express the sensibility of my Heart at the communications in your letter of the 5th. of Feby. from Cadiz. It is to these communications we are indebted for the only acct. yet recd of a general Pacification. My mind upon the receipt of this news was instantly assailed by a thousand ideas, all of them contending for pre-eminence, but believe me my dear friend none could supplant, or ever will eradicate that gratitude, which has arisen from a lively sense of the conduct of your Nation: from my obligations to many illustrious characters of it, among whom (I do not mean to flatter, when) I place you at the head of

them; And from my admiration of the Virtues of your August Sovereign; who at the same time that he stands confessed the Father of his own people, and defender of American rights has given the most exalted example of moderation in treating with his Enemies.

We now stand an Independent People, and have yet to learn political Tactics. We are placed among the Nations of the Earth, and have a character to establish; but how we shall acquit ourselves time must discover; the probability, at least I fear it is, that local, or state Politics will interfere too much with that more liberal and extensive plan of government which wisdom and foresight, freed from the mist of prejudice, would dictate; and that we shall be guilty of many blunders in treading this boundless theatre before we shall have arrived at any perfection in this Art. In a word that the experience which is purchased at the price of difficulties and distress, will alone convince us that the honor, power, and true Interest of this Country must be measured by a Continental scale; and that every departure therefrom weakens the Union, and may ultimately break the band, which holds us together. To avert these evils, to form a Constitution that will give consistency, stability and dignity to the Union; and sufficient powers to the great Council of the Nation for general purposes is a duty which is incumbent upon every Man who wishes well to his Country, and will meet with my aid as far as it can be rendered in the private walks of life; for hence forward my Mind shall be unbent; and I will endeavor to glide down the stream of life 'till I come to that abyss, from whence no traveller is permitted to return.

The Armament wch. was preparing at Cadiz, and in which you were to have acted a distinguished part would have carried such conviction with it, that it is not to be wondered at, that Great Britain should have been impressed with the force

of such reasoning. To this cause I am perswaded, the Peace is to be ascribed. Your going to Madrid from thence, instead of coming immediately to this Country, is another instance My Dear Marquis of your Zeal for the American Cause;[9] and lays a fresh claim to the gratitude of her Sons, who will, at all times, receive you with open Arms; but as no Official dispatches are yet received, either at Phila. or New York of the completion of the treaty, nor any measures taken for the reduction of the Army, my detention therewith is quite uncertain; to say then (at this time) where I may be at the epoch for your intended visit to this Continent is too vague even for conjecture; but nothing can be more true than that the pleasure with which I shall receive you, will be equal to your wishes. I shall be better able to determine *then* than now, on the practicability of accompanying you to France. A Country to which I shall ever feel a Warm Affection; and if I do not pay it that tribute of respect which is to be derived from a visit it may be ascribed with more justice to any other cause, than a want of inclination; or the pleasure of going there under the auspices of your friendship.

I have already observed, that the determinations of Congress, if they have come to any, respecting the Army, is yet unknown to me; but as you wish to be informed of *every thing* that concerns it, I do, for your satisfaction, transmit authentic documents of some very interesting occurrences, which have happened within the last Six Months. but I ought first to have premised, that from accumulated sufferings, and little or no prospect of relief, the discontents of the Officers last Fall put on the threatning appearance of a total resignation, till the business was diverted into the channel which produced the

[9] Through Lafayette's efforts, William Carmichael, who had been left in Madrid by John Jay, when he returned to the United States in 1782, as chargé d'affaires, was publicly received as such by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs in February, 1783.

Address and Petition to Congress which stands first on the file herewith inclosed. I shall make no comment on these proceedings; to one as well acquainted with the sufferings of the American Army as you are, it is unnecessary, it will be sufficient to observe, that the more Virtue and forbearence of it is tried, the more resplendent it appears. My hopes, that the military exit of this valuable class of the community will exhibit such a proof of Amor patriæ as will do them honor in the page of history.

These papers with my last letter (which was intended to go by Colo. Gouvion, containing extensive details of Military Plans) will convey to you every information I can give, in the present uncertainty, worthy of attention. If you should get sleepy, and tired of reading them, recollect, for my exculpation, that it is in compliance with your request, I have run into such prolixity.

I made a proper use of the confidential part of your Letter of the 5th. of Feby.

The scheme, my dear Marqs. which you propose as a precedent, to encourage the emancipation of the black people of this Country from that state of Bondage in wch. they are held, is a striking evidence of the benevolence of your Heart. I shall be happy to join you in so laudable a work; but will defer going into a detail of the business, 'till I have the pleasure of seeing you.[10]

Lord Stirling is no more; he died at Albany in Jany. last, very much regretted. Colo. Barber was snatched from us about

[10] Lafayette had written (Feb. 5, 1783): "Let us unite in purchasing a small estate, where we may try the experiment to free the negroes, and use them only as tenants. Such an example as yours might render it a general practice; and if we succeed in America, I will cheerfully devote a part of my time to render the method fashionable in the West Indies. If it be a wild scheme, I had rather be mad this way, than to be thought wise in the other task." Lafayette's letter is printed in Sparks's *Letters to Washington*, vol. 3, p. 547. The original is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

the same time; in a way equally unexpected, sudden and distressing; leaving many friends to bemoan his fate.

Tilghman is on the point of Matrimony with a namesake and Couzin; Sister to Mrs. Carroll of Baltimore.[11] It only remains for me now, My dear Marqs., to make a tender of my respectful Compliments in which Mrs. Washington unites, to Madame La Fayette; and to wish you, her, and your little offspring, all the happiness this life can afford. I will extend my Compliments to the Gentlemen, with whom I have the honor of an Acquaintance, in your circle. I need not add how happy I shall be to see you in America, and more particularly at Mount Vernon; or with what truth and warmth of Affection I am etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, April 6, 1783.

Parole Zealand. Countersigns Africa, Bohemia.

For the day tomorrow { Major Ashley. / B. Qr. Mr. York brigade.

For duty the 5th. Massachusetts regiment.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Headquarters, April 6, 1783.

Sir: It is not improbable, that on the Arrival of the Packet at N York with the News of Peace, Sir Guy Carleton will send out an Officer with dispatches for me, containing that agreable intelligence; in such case the Officer may be permitted to come to this place and you will send an Officer with him or accompany him yourself, as you may think proper. I am &c.[12]

[11] Ann Maria Tilghman, daughter of Matthew Tilghman.

[12] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To JOHN PIERCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 6, 1783.

Sir: The speedy settlement of the Accounts of the Army being a matter of the utmost consequence, I cannot help repeating to you my earnest desire and expectation, that the greatest diligence will be used in accomplishing it. And I will venture to give it as my opinion, that so many hands as can be made use of, after you have fully digested and settled the principles, ought to be employed in the execution of the business.

No expence that can be incurred by hiring a great number of Writers for the occasion is to be compared with the expences which will arise from keeping the Army together one single day to wait for the liquidation of their Accounts. That the Troops must be kept together a considerable time for this purpose only, will be I conceive inevitable, unless the greatest exertions shall in the mean time be made. And that a variety of other ill consequences may result from a delay in the completion of this business, need scarcely be suggested.

Impressed as I am with the Ideas before mentioned, I cannot hesitate to give you every assistance in my power either by stimulating the Army to uncommon efforts on their part, or by writing to any public Characters in the States to forward the Accounts with the greatest possible dispatch. I am &c.[13]

[N.Y.H.S.]

PASSPORT TO ENTER NEW YORK

Head Quarters, April 6, 1783.

Daniel Parker Esqr. Contractor for the Army havg represented to me, by his Letter of the 2d April, that in consequence of Instructions from the Secty at War, he has lately been in

[13] In the writing of David Humphreys.

N York, on Business relative to public Supplies, and having been unable, in the first Instance to accomplish the Purposes of his Mission, and having now a prospect of doing it, applies to me for passport to return to that City.

Permission is hereby granted to the sd Daniel Parker Esqr. to proceed by Water from this Place, by Way of Dobb's Ferry, to N York, for the purposes mentioned in his Instructions from the Minister of War.[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, April 7, 1783.

Parole Canada. Countersigns Dissolution, Event.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Col. Cummings.[15] / B. Q. M. Hampshire Brigade.

The Maryland Detachment gives the Fatigue

The Jersey regiment the Guards tomorrow

At the General Courtmartial of which Colonel Micheal Jackson is president, Micheal Smith, Jonas Newell, John Blake and Nathan Curtis, soldiers of the 1st. Massa. regt., charged with breaking open the house of Mr. James Munnell, on the evening of the 17th. of March, insulting and abusing the Inhabitants and attempting to kill Captain James Frye and Captn. Benjamin Ellis[16] when in the execution of their office, and robbing them of a Hatt; *were tried.*

The Court on consideration, are of opinion that none of the charges are supported against either of the prisoners and do acquit each, and every of them.

Elijah Buckman a soldier in the 2d. Massachusetts regt. (by appeal) was tried at the same Court, charged with throwing

[14] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[15] Lieut. Col. John Noble Cumming (Cummings).
[16] Of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

stones at Lt. Ame's[17] hutt and breaking the window on the evening of the 17th. March last.

The Court on consideration are of opinion that the charge is not supported against the prisoner and do acquit him.

The Commander in Chief approves the opinion of the Court with respect to Smith, Newell and Curtis, also of Buckman and orders them to be released.

The Court martial of which Colonel Micheal Jackson is president is desolved.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, April 7, 1783.

Sir: The Negro Boy, whom it is said Captain Ballard[18] attempted to sell, waits upon you with this; he reports that the Person who pretended to purchase him consents to give up the Bill of Sale, upon his obtaining a certificate that Captn Ballard had no right to dispose of him as a Slave. Justice and Humanity require the Matter should be enquired into; that, in case it shall appear the lad is free, and was not the property of Captn Ballard, and in case Captain Ballard has nevertheless presumed to sell him for a Slave; the former may be liberated from his bondage and relieved from his apprehensions, and the latter prosecuted in a suitable manner if practicable. These are the Commander in Chiefs sentiments, and he requests you will take the trouble of causing the Investigation to be made, and Justice to be done in the premises. I have the honor etc.[19]

[17] Lieut. Jotham Ames, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

[18] Capt. Jeremiah Ballard, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He served to April, 1783.

[19] The draft is in the writing of and signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, April 7, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of an Application from Major Barber in your behalf, and a Communication from him of the Benefits and advantage you have in prospect from a Tour to france; considering also that the present Stage of the War, may probably admit of your Absence from your military Duty, without Detriment; I have tho't proper to signify to you my Approbation of your intended Voyage, and to consent to your leaving this Continent for the purposes mentioned to me; provided you first obtain the Liberty of Congress to sanctify your Absence; a measure which is indispensible. I am &c[20]

To SIR GUY CARLETON

Head Quarters, April 7, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 31st of March, enclosing an Extract of a Letter from General Haldimand, with an Extract of a Speech of the Six Nation Indians. The Speech I conceive to be rather uncandid. I have good reason to believe that the Severities the Indians have experienced, have been drawn upon themselves by their own barbarous Conduct. But as those Transactions have not been under my Direction, I am unable to speak of them, but as I have been authorized by Report. The Cruelties exercised on both Sides are intirely repugnant to my Ideas. The Death of Colo. Crawford, I do not think was so justly procured as the Indians declare; for I think I am authorized to say, that he was not in

[20] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 78, XVII, fol. 349.

the least concerned in the unhappy Massacre of the Moravian people. Your Excely's Letter, with its Enclosures has been transmitted to Congress, who will take such Measures as their Wisdom shall direct.

Not having received any official Accounts of Peace, it is not in my power to give General Haldimand those Communications upon that happy Event, which your Excellency intimates, or that my own Benevolence would Dictate. I have the Honor, etc.[21]

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, April 8, 1783.

Parole Farrago. Countersigns Gusto, Harmony.

For the day tomorrow Major Porter.
B. Q. M. 1st. Massa. Brigade.

The Jersey regiment gives the Fatigues

The Jersey battalion the Guards tomorw.

The sixth Massachusetts regt. to hold itself in *readiness* to relieve the Hampshire regiment on the Lines.

Captain Simeon Lord[22] (late of the 2d. Massachusetts regt.) is appointed Assistant Adjutant General and to be respected accordingly; his appointment to have effect from the first day of February last.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 8, 1783.

Sir: With infinite satisfaction I communicate to your Excellency the inclosed Extracts from Sir Guy Carleton's official

[21] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On April 7 David Humphreys wrote to Colonel Nicola that the Commander in Chief orders "the sentence against William Ryon of the Invalid Regt to be carried into execution." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[22] He served as Assistant Adjutant General to the close of the war.

Letter[23] which has this Moment come to my Hand, by a British Officer, announcing a Certainty of the glorious Event of a general Peace.

On this happy Occasion your Excellency will be pleased to accept my warmest and most sincere Congratulations. With the greatest Esteem etc.[24]

To SIR GUY CARLETON

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: I feel great satisfaction from your Excellency's Dispatches by Capt Stapleton, conveying to me the Joyful enunciation of your having received Official Accounts of the Conclusion of a general Peace, and a cessation of Hostilities.

Without official Authority from Congress, but perfectly relying on your Excellency's Communication, I can at this Time, only issue my Orders to the American Outposts to suspend all Acts of Hostilities until further Orders; this shall be instantly done; And I shall be happy in the momentary Expectation of having it in my power to publish, to the American Army, a general Cessation of all Hostilities between G Britain and America.

To your Excellency's Observations respecting particular Articles of the Peace, I am obliged to reply, that it rests with Congress to direct Measures for the Observance of all the Articles contained in the provisional Treaty.[25] Your Excellency may be assured that as soon as I receive my Instructions from the Sovereign power of the United States, I shall rejoice, in giving

[23] Carleton's letter (Apr. 6, 1783) announced the signing of the preliminary or provisional treaty of peace with France and Spain, that a cessation of hostilities would be proclaimed April 8, and that hostilities had ceased between Great Britain and Holland. Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[24] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[25] At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "and I have not a Doubt on my Mind, but that that Hono Body will cause strict Attention to be paid to every stipulation which the Commissioners in Europe have agreed to. For my own part."

every facility in my power to carry it into compleat Execution, that Article of the Treaty which respects the Restitution of all prisoners of War, being perfectly disposed to contribute to the diffusing, as much as possible, the happy Effects of this great Event.

I thank your Excellency for the Assurances you are pleased to express of your readiness to cultivate that spirit of perfect good Will and Conciliation, which you wish should take place between the King of G Britain and the United States and the Citizens and Subjects of both Countries. And I beg Sir, that you will please to accept a Tender from me of reciprocal good Will and Attention; accompanied with sincere Congratulations to your Excellency on this joyful Restoration of Peace and general Tranquility, with an earnest Wish, that, resting on the firm Basis of mutual Interest and good Will, it may prove as lasting as it is happy. I have the Honor etc.[26]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to your Excellency the Copy of a Letter which I received Yesterday from Sir Guy Carleton, by the Hand of Capt. Stapleton,[27] Deputy Adjut. General to the British Army.

I should have sent it off instantly by Express for the Information of Congress, but being told by Capt. Stapleton, that Dispatches had been sent out by Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby, by way of Elizabeth Town, for Philadelphia, the Morning that he left the City, I concluded that there was not a necessity for so great Expedition. With the highest Esteem etc.[28]

[26] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[27] Capt. John Stapleton, of the Seventeenth Light Dragoons, and Deputy Adjutant General of the British Army in America.

[28] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: As I ever take pleasure in seeing military Merit rewarded, I rejoice at your promotion[29] to the Rank of Brigadier General, which you mention Congress has been pleased to grant you and most sincerely congratulate you on the Occasion. I am &c.[30]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Orange Town, April 9, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose you a Copy of the propositions made by Messrs Duer and Parker for advancing 3 Months pay to the Army previous to the dissolution of it, and I do it with the more satisfaction because I cannot but hope from their Letter as well as the conversations I have held with these Gentlemen that the measure will now become practicable, and because I know that the most disagreeable consequences may be apprehended unless the proposed expedient shall be adopted, or some other resource opened which will enable you to furnish at least to the amount of three Months Pay before the Troops shall be disbanded.

Acquainted as you are, with the state of Public Affairs, the present temper and disposition of the Troops, and my sentiments of the importance of this subject, it is unnecessary for me to add any thing farther on it, especially as Mr. Parker (who will be the bearer of this Letter) will be able personally to explain his and my ideas more fully than can be done in writing. I have the honor etc.[31]

[29] On Mar. 26, 1783.
[30] The draft s in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[31] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, April 9, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency's request respecting the Prisoners which you expect from N York by Way of Dobb's Ferry, has been communicated to the Intendant of our naval prisoners,[32] who is at that post, and I trust Measures will be taken to give such relief and Assistance as may be needed.[33]

The Letter for Capt Macarty,[34] was forwarded by a Gentleman going directly to Portsmouth. I have the Honor etc.[35]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, April 9, 1783.

Parole Judicial. Countersigns Iver, Ives.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Colonel Maxwell.
B. Q. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 1st. York regiment.

At the General court martial of which Colonel H. Jackson is president, Andrew Russel, Phenias Aston, Robert Conick, John Smith, Abner Wheeler and Thomas Aston, soldiers in the Massachusetts Line, *were tried* convicted of having inlisted by fictitious names, and desertion, and sentenced, Robert Conick to receive fifty and the others one hundred lashes each on their naked back.

Thomas Colburn of the Massachusetts Line, Arthur Thrasher and Silas Henry of the late 9th. and Stephen Orcut of the 6th. Massachusetts regiment, were tried by the same Genl.

[32] Thomas Turner.

[33] Benjamin Walker wrote to Turner (April 6), inclosing a copy of Luzerne's letter to Washington of March 30, and directing "a compliance with its contents by affording every possible assistance in forwarding the Prisoners to Philadelphia." Walker' draft and Luzerne's letter are in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] Capt. Jean Baptiste de MacCarthy Martaigue, of the French Navy.

[35] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

court-martial convicted of Desertion and sentenced to receive each one hundred lashes on his naked back; Arthur Thrasher to receive his punishment by 25 lashes at a time, four successive mornings.

Abraham Wilson of the 2d. New york regiment, was *tried* by the same General courtmartial convicted of disorderly conduct and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his naked back.

The Commander in chief approves the foregoing sentences and directs the punishments to be inflicted accordingly.

PASSPORT TO CAPTAIN RICHARD P. TONGE AND WILLIAM ROBERTSON[36]

Head Quarters, April 10, 1783.

Permission is hereby granted to Capt Richd P. Tonge and Mr Wm Robertson, British Officers, bearing Dispatches from Sir Guy Carleton in N York to General Haldimand, to pass thro the Country, by such route as they shall find most Convenient, to Canada, with their Letters and Baggage; and all Officers Civil and Military, are requested to Afford them such Aid in their Journeys, as shall be found necessary.[37]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, April 10, 1783.

Parole Kingsclear. Countersigns Lancaster, Maryland.

For the day tomorrow Major Lansdale.
B. Qr. M. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 2d. York Regiment.

On April 9 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray, that the Commander in Chief directs that "you send up a Cockswain and 8 of your best Oarsmen to man his Barge." Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*, indorsed by Pray with the names of the oarsmen, as follows: "Corporal Mitchell, Pease, McHinsey, Lewis, Jones, Johnson, Hendriks, James Bright, Tinker."

[36] Of the naval department in Canada.

[37] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, April 11, 1783.

Parole Novascotia. Countersigns Oxford, Parnassus.

For the day tomorrow Major Pope.
B. Q. M. Jersey Brigade.

For duty 1st. Massachusetts regiment.

To REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT DIGBY

Head Quarters, April 11, 1783.

Sir: Captain Hurlbutt, an Officer of this Army, who was dangerously wounded about two Years since, wishing to return to his home and being still unable to bear the fatigue of a conveyance by Land; I have to request the favor of your Excellencys Passport for a small Vessel to convey him by Water to New London.[38] Captain Hurlbutt will be accompanied only by another Gentleman and the small number of Persons necessary to Navigate the Vessel. I have the honor etc.[39]

To BARON STEUBEN, MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, April 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: Taking it for granted the principle is generally understood, that an Officer holding a Commission in the Line of the Army of a superior grade, to that he possesses in a

[38] On April 15 Digby granted this passport, and on April 18 Washington issued his passport for a sloop to proceed from Newburgh to New London in which Hurlbut was to proceed. A Captain Arthurs, a British naval prisoner, who was in ill health, was to go in the sloop to New York City. Digby's passport and the draft of Washington's letter are in the *Washington Papers*.

[39] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

particular Corps, is to roll on all general duties agreeably to his Commission in the Army, and to be considered in the Line of the State to which he belongs, according to the rank he holds in a Corps of that State; the following questions will then arise in the case of Majr. Sumner, who is also a Captain in the 3d. Masstts. Regt. supposing him to be put on the Roster with the Majors of the Line, and take his tour as such in all general details for Detachment, Courts Martial, Officer of the Day &c. what specific Duties shall he perform, at the same time, as a Captain in the Massachusetts Line? for example, ought he to be detailed as Captain of Police in the Brigade to which he belongs, in the present mode of doing Duty, when the Officer of Police reports to the Field Officer of the Day, or not? How are the different Duties, to which an Officer in that predicament is subjected, to be reconciled? or when those Duties shall interfere, which is to supersede the other?

I desire your opinions collectively in writing on these points of Service, as soon as conveniently may be, and am etc.[40]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, April 12, 1783.

Parole Queenborough. Countersigns Radnor, Shaftsbury.

For the day tomorrow Colonel Vanscaick.
B. Q. M. York Brigade.

For duty the Hampshire Battalion.

Application is to be made to the Assistant Clother Genl. for another distribution of Shirts, also Returns to be given in to him of the men who have not received Hatts for the last year.

[40] In the writing of David Cobb. On the same letter is inscribed the signed opinion of Steuben, Knox, and Huntington to the effect that Sumner must perform all duties in the line, incident to his rank; to report to the field officer of the day, even though he is a junior, and the Adjutant General's roster is to be obeyed before any other.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, April 13, 1783.

Parole Truce. Countersigns Umpire, Vesta.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Colonel Brooks. / B. Q. Mr. Hampshire Brigade.

For duty the 7th. Massachusetts regiment.

The Commander in chief is extremely anxious to have the settlement of the accounts of the Army expedited as much as possible. He hopes and expects the regimental pay masters will use their gratest deligence in compleating the accounts which have been called for by the pay master Genl., and that the Assistant Clothier with the Army will make no delay in furnishing Mr. Pierce with such Documents as may be necessary from the Cloathing Department.

The late Rains having damaged the Causway between the wings of the Army: The Commander in Chief directs that it may be immediately repared.

The Quarter Master Genl. will order a person to Superintend the work. each Brigade will furnish tools for their own party employed on it.

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, April 14, 1783.

Parole Warsaw. Countersigns Xenophon, Yarmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Major Oliver. / B. Q. M. 1st. Massa. Brigade.

For duty the 4th. Massachusetts regiment.

The *Levee's* are to commence tomorrow at the public Building and to be attended daily at 12 o'clock on the principles pointed out in the orders of the 5th. of July 1781. and 5th. of

September 1782. in addition to which the Commander in chief directs it to be signifyed to the Army. that it will be agreeable to him, for all officers not on duty, or particularly engaged, to attend as frequently as they can make it convenient.

The 6th. Massachusetts regiment will march tomorrow for the relief of the Hampshire regiment on the Lines; the Commanding officer will call at Head Quarters this evening for orders.

AFTER ORDERS

The regiments which have not turned and repaired their Coats, are to draw Lotts for the scarlet cloth which arrived yesterday; such Corps as can not now be supplied must retain their old Uniforms. Every thing that can be done previous to the first of may, to make the troops appear respectable, ought to be attempted an Extra allowance of one ration per coat will be made for every regimental Coat that has or shall be turned.

The Pay masters of regiments which have not began to repair their Coats with their former facings and wish for a proportion of Scarlet Cloth will attend at the clothing store in Newburgh tomorrow 9 o'clock A. M. that a distribution may take place immediately after the lots are drawn.

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

My dear Baron: A Committee of Congress is appointed to consider what arrangements it will be proper to adopt in the different departments with reference to a peace.

Colo. Hamilton who is Chairman of this Committee has written me on this Subject wishing to know my Sentiments at large on such institutions of every kind for the interior defence of these States, as may be best adapted to their circumstances

and conciliate security with Oeconomy and with the principles of our Government.[41]

I wish therefore to be favored with your thoughts on this Subject as soon as possible that I may compare them with my own and be able to comply with the request of the Committee in as full a manner and with as little delay as can be. I am etc.[42]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Official accounts of the happy conclusion of a Peace, have been transmitted by Sir Guy Carleton to General Haldimand at Quebec by two Officers who passed thro' this place a few days since: but as a very considerable time must elapse before these Gentlemen can arrive at Quebec, and the News be commnuicated from thence to the British Posts in the Upper Country, and as humanity dictates that not a moment should be lost in endeavouring to prevent any further incursions of the Indians (who, it is said, have already struck at Wyoming) I have thought it proper to write to General McLean[43] commanding the British Force in that Quarter, and to inclose to him the King of Great Britains Proclamation for the Cessation of Hostilities; and this Letter I must desire you to forward to him at Niagara by some trusty Indian runner with all possible expedition; the expence attending this business shall be repaid on your informing me of it.

You will at the same time give orders to the Troops and Indians under your Command, to forbear all Acts of Hostility against the Troops of his Brittannic Majesty, other than for their own immediate defence. I am &c.

[41] The same request was made of Maj. Gen. Henry Knox and of Gov. George Clinton in brief notes, both dated April 14, the drafts of which are in the *Washington Papers*.

[42] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

[43] Brig. Gen. Allan Maclean (McLean), of the British Army in America.

PS. The Dispatch is left under a flying Seal, that you may see the News paper which is inclosed; after reading you will please to return the paper, Seal and send forward.[44] [H.L.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: Impressed with the same Ideas as are mentioned in your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday, I have this Day previous to receipt of yours, transmitted to Brigr Genl McLean: comdg in the District of Niagara, Copies of several Late Communications from Sir Guy Carleton: One of the Proclamations of the King of G Britain for cessation of Hostilities, and a N York Paper, containg the Articles of general Pacification between all the Belligerent powers. These Dispatches are put under Cover to Colo Willet with my Desire to him that they should be sent with an Indian Runner by the most Expeditious Route to Niagara. These papers I hope will answer the purposes mentioned by your Excellency without the Delay of sendg to Sir Guy Carleton.

The Disaster said to have happened to the Wyoming Settlements, is mentioned to me as a Report only. I hope it is without foundation. I am &c.[45]

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Newburgh, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Yesterday I was honored with your favor of the 10th. Instt. and beg leave to assure you that the expression of

[44] In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P. S. is in the writing of and is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[45] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter sent is in the possession (1937) of Frederick S. Peck, of Barrington, R. I.

attachment to the people and Government of this Country and to myself in particular, has filled me with pleasure and gratitude.

Congress have made no communication to me of their intention respecting a Peace Establishment, nor do I conceive, under the present state of our Finances they would incline to retain a Regiment of Cavalry in pay. The expence, without an adequate object would be too great for the œconomy we must observe. the offer of your Services must however be considered as an honourable testimonial of the sincerity of your profession but as it is your request to me to make no mention of the application you may rest assured of my silence. With great esteem etc.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have been informed that a Comee. of Congress is appointed to take the objects mentioned in your letter into consideration but I am ignorant of what they have adopted, or may adopt in fixing a Plan for Peace.

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES[46]

Head Quarters, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Previous to the disbanding of the Army, an event which is to be wished, may take place with as much ease and satisfaction as circumstances will admit, Congress have directed that a compleat settlement and liquidation of all their Accounts shall be made; To effect this the Pay Master Genl. is arrived, with full Instructions to enter immediately upon the settlement, and to compleat it as soon as possible; In performing this Duty he informs me that recourse must be had to the several States for their Accounts (if they have any) against their respective Lines; this requisition probably may have been, or will be, made by Mr. Morris; but as I consider it of the utmost

[46] New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

importance both for the ease and quiet of the Army, as well as in point of Oeconomy to the Public, that this business should be effected with all the dispatch that it is possible to give it, I have procured from the Pay Master Genl. the enclosed minutes of what he judges necessary to obtain from the States, as part of the ground of his settlement; which I take the liberty to transmit to your Excellency, with my most earnest request, that you will be pleased to give Directions that the earliest attention may be given to forward, without the least delay, to Mr. Pierce, Pay Master Genl., whatever information, Accounts or papers, shall on examination of his Minutes, be found necessary; together with any other papers or documents which may be thought proper from your State to effect the settlement proposed.

I have taken this liberty the rather, as it is judged, that, on a supposition of the utmost dispatch in the States, the greatest delay in compleating this very important settlement, will most probably arise from the time necessary to obtain their Accounts.[47] I have the honor etc.[48]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ALLAN MACLEAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 14, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that on the 3d of April I received from Sir Guy Carleton the enclosed Extract of a Letter from General Haldimand No. 1. On the 8th A Proclamation of the King of great Britain was sent me by Sir Guy, No 2. And on the 10th. a Letter, of which No 3 is Copy was received,

[47] The circular was accompanied by a set of queries from the Paymaster General to the States, the evident purpose of which was to enable him to establish a uniform basis for paying off the Army. In the Connecticut circular these queries are in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The draft of the circular, in the *Washington Papers*, is dated April 12, and the queries, in the writing of Pierce, contain this additional one, not found in the Connecticut document: "Supplies to the families of Officers and Soldiers."

[48] In the writing of David Cobb. From the circular sent to Connecticut, the original of which is in the Connecticut State Library.

requesting Passports for two Gentlemen bearing Dispatches from the British Comr in Chief to Genl Haldimand, announcing the ratification of the preliminary Articles of a general Peace, and Cessation of Hostilities. A passport was immediately granted, and the Gentlemen are on their Way to Canada.

The Distance to Genl Haldimand being great, and his Situation so wide from your post that great Time must elapse before you can receive his Dispatches; I have taken the Liberty to make this Communication to you by the directest Route in my power. In Confident Hope, that, altho you may not deem this Information *Official,* yet that your Benevolence will cause it to be regarded with such Attention that, if it does not produce a total Cessation of Hostilities within your Command yet may at least prevent any unnecessary and Wanton Acts of Cruelty which may have been threatened[49] by the Indians on the frontiers; and which may in, their Consequences, prove as disagreeable to them as distressing to the Inhabitants of the United States. I have the Honor etc.[50]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

April 15, 1783.

Dr Sr: I have been honored with Yours of yesterday and now inclose the passport which the Comd in Chief has been pleased to grant for Mr. Coffin[51] to proceed to Boston in case he shall

[49] The letter sent has "meditated."

[50] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter sent is in the British Museum, Addl. Mss., 21,763, and varies from the above draft in minor verbal details only.

On April 14 Humphreys wrote a brief note to Brig. Gen. John Paterson and other commanding officers of the various State lines in the Army, stating that the Commander in Chief permitted the sending of volunteer artificers to assist Lieut. Col. Udny Hay in rebuilding his house. A contemporary copy of this draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

[51] Thomas Aston Coffin. The name is also spelled Austin Coffin in the passport which was dated April 15, and contained the phrase: "If this is *Bona fide* the Case. Permission is hereby granted etc." This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

have previously obtained permission for that purpose from the Executive of the State. It is upon this condition alone His Excellency will make any interference, and this he desires may be explicitly understood in all similar cases untill some further regulations shall be established on the subject. I am &c.[52]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, April 15, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Boston, Charlestown.

For the day tomorrow { Major Trescot. / B. Q. Mr. 3d. Massts. Brigade.

For duty tomorrow 3d. Massachusetts regiment.

Ensign Herring,[53] of the 1st. Newyork regiment, was tried by the General Courtmartial of which Colonel H. Jackson is president, "for Embezling, or misapplying, part of the rum or the

[52] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]."

[53] Ensign Benjamin Herring. He served to June, 1783.

Mr. George Bennet, an Englishman, on a voyage from Jamaica, was captured off New York harbor and carried to Rhode Island. From thence he traveled to Newburgh, N. Y., and on April 15 he wrote to his mother describing his meeting with General Washington. "He then with great affability asked me to sit down and to drink a glass of wine. After some conversation, as it was now 2 o'clock I rose to take my leave—Mr B, said he, you will do me the favor to stay & dine—we shall dine in less than an hour—this was honour which I could never have expected & would by no means decline—at table he placed me on the left hand of Mrs Washington—he was on her right & he drank his first glass of wine with me—the company besides consisted of about 15 officers—The dinner was good, but everything was quite plain—we all sat on camp stools & there was nothing to be seen about his House, but what every officer in the army might likewise have in his—Mrs W. was as plain, easy, and affable as he was, & one would have thought from the familiarity which prevailed there, that he saw a respectable private gentleman dining at the Head of his own Family.

"Genel. W. is now just 50 years old—he is a tall genteel figure of a man, rather exceeding 6 foot in height—His countenance is grave, composed, mild and penetrating—his nose is long & of the Roman shape—his eyes a little hollow under the eyebrows but active and lively—his whole countenance is expressive of Sagacity, of Prudence, and of Moderation, & his figure altogether has something of the solemn and majestick, which impresses respect in every beholder . . . in his dress he was perfectly plain—an old blue coat faced with buff waistcoat and britches of the latter, seemingly of the same age & without any lace upon them composed his dress, his shirt had no ruffles at the wrists, but of very fine linen—he always wears Boots, & never uses a Carriage, but when Mrs W. is with him, & that is only in winter. His hair is a little gray & combed smoothly back from the forehead & in a small queue—no curlls & but very little Powder to it."

value thereof due Captn. Bleekers Company for the month of January last," and acquitted.

The General approves Ensign Herrings acquittal. He is released from his Arrest.

Jeremiah Allen, a Drummer of the 8th. Massachusetts regiment, was tried by the same General Courtmartial for stealing a number of Shirts and blanketts out of the public store at Newburgh on the night of the 24th. of march last, convicted and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his naked breech, to be inflicted at four different periods: Twenty-five at each period, Fifty in front of the 2d., twenty five in front of the 1st. and the remaining twenty five in front of the 3d. Massachusetts Brigades.

The General approves the sentence and directs it to be carried into execution.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, April 16, 1783.

Sir: In reply to your favor of the 28th of March I have to observe, that it is probable that a dissolution of the Army is not far distant; but as it is uncertain when the proclamation of peace and Cessation of hostilities will be ordered by Congress; and as it is of much Importance, for the reasons mentioned by yourself among others, that you should be present at your post previous to, and at the takg place of that Event, I have to desire that you will proceed immediately to Fort Pitt, where your influence and prudence may be much needed.

Particular Instructions respectg the Security and Disposition of the Stores, after disbandg the Troops now in Garrison, it is not in my power to give you at this Time; these you will probably soon receive from the Secrty at War, and will depend upon the Arrangements which shall be adopted for a Peace

Establishment, which are now under Consideration: on this decision also will probably depend the Length of Time which will be necessary for you to remain at the Post.

The Pay Master Genl is now takg Measures for formg his Settlements with the Army; in his Arrangement the whole are to be included, and will undoubtedly extend to the Garrison of Fort Pitt.

The Happy Event of a general Peace diffuses very universal satisfaction; with great sincerity I return you my Congratulations on that great Occasion, and beg you to accept my Thanks for the good wishes which you apply personally to myself. With much Regard etc.[54] [H.S.P.]

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, April 16, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 9th instant in behalf of a Committee of Congress, requestg my Sentiments upon the military Department of a Peace Establishment.

As this Discussion will involve a variety of Considerations, and those of very great Importance; The Committee will indulge me in a little Time to [collect] and concenter my Ideas on this Subject, and they may depend on my communicating them in the best Manner I am able, and at the earliest period in my power. I am &c.[55]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, April 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: My last letter to you was written in a hurry, when I was fatigued by the more public, yet confidential letter which

[54] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[55] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

(with several others) accompanied it; possibly, I did not on that occasion express myself (in what I intended as a hint) with so much perspicuity as I ought; possibly too, what I then dropped, might have conveyed more than I intended; for I do not, at this time, recollect the force of my expression.

My meaning however, was only to inform, that there were different sentiments in the Army as well as in Congress, respecting Continental and State Funds; some wishing to be thrown upon their respective States rather than the Continent at large, for payment; and that, if an idea should prevail generally that Congress, or part of its Members, or Ministers, bent upon the latter, should *delay* doing them justice, or *hazard* it in pursuit of their favourite object; it might create such divisions in the Army as would weaken, rather than strengthen the hands of those who were disposed to support Continental measures, and might *tend* to defeat the end they themselves had in view by endeavoring to involve the Army.

For these reasons I said, or meant to say, the Army was a dangerous Engine to Work with, as it might be made to cut both ways; and, considering the Sufferings of it, would, more than probably, throw its weight into that Scale which seemed most likely to preponderate towards its immediate relief, without looking forward (under the pressure of present want) to future consequences with the eyes of Politicians. In this light also I meant to apply my observation to Mr. Morris, to whom, or rather to Mr. G— M—[56] is ascribed, in a great degree, the ground work of the superstructure which was intended to be raised in the Army by the Anonymous Addresser.

That no Man can be more opposed to State funds and local prejudices than myself, the whole tenor of my conduct has been one continual evidence of; No Man perhaps has had better

[56] Gouverneur Morris.

oppertunities to *see* and to *feel* the pernicious tendency of the latter than I have and I endeavor (I hope not altogether ineffectually) to inculcate them upon the Officers of the Army upon all proper occasions; but their feelings are to be attended to and soothed; and they assured that if Continental funds cannot be established, they will be recommended to their respective States for payment, justice must be done them.

I should do injustice to report, and what I believe to be the opinion of the Army were I not to inform you, that they consider you as a friend, zealous to serve them, and one who has espoused their interests in Congress upon every proper occasion. It is to be wished, as I observed in my letter to Colo. Bland, that Congress would send a Comee. to the Army with Plenipo: powers; The matters requested of me in your letter of the [57] as Chairman of a Comee., and many other things might then be brought to a close with more dispatch and in a happier manner than it is likely they will be by an intercourse of letters at the distance of 150 Miles; which takes *our* Expresses, a week *at least* to go and come. At this moment, being without any instructions from Congress, I am under great embarrassment with respect to the Soldiers for the War and shall be obliged more than probably, from the necessity of the case, to exercise my own judgment without waiting for Orders, as to the discharge of them. If I should adopt measures which events may approve; all will be well. If otherwise, why and by what Authority did you do so?

How far a *strong* recommendation from Congress to observe *All* the Articles of Peace as well as the [58] may imply a suspicion of good faith in the people of this country, I pretend not to judge; but I am much mistaken if something of the kind will not be found wanting as I already perceive a disposition to

[57] Of April 9.
[58] Blank in both the letter sent and the draft.

Carp at, and to elude such parts of the treaty as affect different interests altho' you do not find a Man who, when pushed, will not acknowledge that upon the *whole* it is a more advantageous Peace than we could possibly have expected. I am &c.[59]

*To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Newburgh, April 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: However great the merits of the Marqs. De la Fayette may be, however important his Services to this Country, and however strong my friendship for, and inclination to serve him, it never was my intention to promote his wishes at the expense of the interest, policy, or dignity of our National character. If my last letter to you therefore, conveyed an idea repugnant to these sentiments, I beg it may be ascribed to the inaccuracy of my expression. I was aware that motives, such as you have described, might be opposed to his desires; and said, or meant to say, if Congress saw no impropriety in the gratification of his request, I was perswaded they wanted not inclination to oblige a man who had shewn such Zeal in the Service of this Country. More than this I did not mean to say; less, I could not if he had any other design in the transcript of his letter (which I gave you) than a mere communication to me, of what he had written to you.

Private gratifications should ever, in my opinion, yield to public considerations where they are built on a proper basis, and I am perswaded that the Marquis, however ambitious, and eager he may be in pursuit of glory, will readily acquiesce to a refusal which is made upon public ground.

I have been thus particular, lest some things in my last letter, which was written in haste (as most of my private letters are)

[59] From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

should have conveyed more than I intended. There is no Man upon Earth I have a greater inclination to serve than the Marquis La Fayette; but I have not a wish to do it in matters that interfere with, or are repugnant to, our National policy, dignity, or interest.

As this letter is only intended as an explication of my last, I shall add no more than that I am with much truth etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Wednesday, April 16, 1783.

Parole Dorchester. Countersigns Essex, Falmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Major General Heath / Brigade Qr. Master from 2d. Massa. Brigade.

The 2d. Massachusetts regt. gives the guards and the 8th. the Fatigues tomorrow.

Untill further orders a General officer and the field officers present fit for duty in the regt. or corps which gives the Guards will be of the day. The patrolls ordered for the preservation of good order in and about this Cantonment, the Guards and other duties of the day performed with arms, are to be furnished by one regiment or corps, and the fatigues and duties performed without arms by another. The Grand Parade will be in front of the New building where the whole of the regiment or corps which gives the Guards is to be paraded, precisely at 12 o'clock, and will perform such Manoeuvres as the General of the day shall direct. The Guards and parties for immediate duty are then to be formed and marched off. That done the remainder of the corps will return to its cantonment and there hold itself in readiness for duty untill 12 o'clock the following day.

In the absence of Major General Gates, Major Genl. Heath will take the immediate command of the Army in this Cantonment.

Officers of each State Line and every other discription of officers under the immediate orders of the Commander in chief who are called upon to signify their acceptance or refusal of the commutation offered by Congress in their act of the 23d. of March 1783, will make their election thereon, and report the same through the senior officer or head of the Department on the 25th. of April.

To THE GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY

Head Quarters, April 17, 1783.

Gentlemen: It is well known to you that the first intimations of a general Peace have been given to us sometime past by a casual conveyance, and published accordingly to the Army, and that the same intelligence has since been received by Sir Guy Carleton from the British Court, in consequence of which, a cessation of Hostilities has been proclaimed in New York. I am now to inform you, Gentlemen, that the Official Dispatches of Congress, announcing this most glorious Event, with their proclamations,[60] prohibiting all Acts of Hostility against the King of Great Britain, were yesterday put into my hands; these Communications will be laid before you for your farther Information.

Having received no particular Instructions, respecting the Army, from Congress or any of their Ministers; being informed from various quarters that the British Troops are not making vigorous preparations for their departure from the United

[60] The proclamation was issued by Congress on Apr. 11, 1783. No copy is now found in the *Washington Papers*. (See General Orders, Apr. 18, 1783, *post*.)

States; being given to understand that non commissioned Officers of our Army are beginning to make new and unusual demands of compensation for their services, and being apprehensive the Soldiers enlisted for the War, will instantly claim their discharges, and unless gratified in their Wishes, that the most disagreeable consequences will ensue; I am, under these peculiar circumstances, to request your opinions on the following Questions, viz

1st. Ought the Intelligence received yesterday to be communicated in the public Orders immediately, or not?

2d. In case of Communication, what conduct should be adopted at the moment, respecting the Men engaged for the War?

3d. In case it should be deemed expedient to defer the publication, to what period should it be postponed?

4th. Under the supposition of deferring the publication untill the farther pleasure of Congress shall be known, what preparatory measures can or ought to be taken, respecting the disolution of the Army. I am etc.[61]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, April 17, 1783.

Parole Grottenburgh. Countersigns Hague, Ireland.

For the day tomorrow Brigadier General Patterson.
B. Q. M. Jersey Brigade.

A Board of Officers consisting of Brigadier General Greaton, Colonels Stewart and Sproat and Majors Fish and Trescot will assemble at the Newbuilding on Saturday next ten o'clock A. M. to take into consideration the claims of the Candidates for the badge of merit, and will report thereon to the

[61] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

Commander in chief as soon as possible. The papers at the Orderly office and all other certificates and papers relative to these claims are to be put into the hands of Brigadier Greaton before Saturday.

The Westpoint packet boat for the Army is now established. She will leave Westpoint at ten o'clock in the morning and Newburgh at five in the after noon.

The 5th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards, and the Maryland Detachment the fatigues tomorrow.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, April 18, 1783.

Sir: I find it a duty incumbent on me to communicate to your Excellency the present disposition and Temper of part of the Army. The accounts of Peace which have been received at different times, have raised an Expectation in the Minds of the Men engaged *for the War,* that a speedy Discharge must be the Consequence. This Idea has been so deeply impressed, that it is become difficult to hold them under that sense of discipline which is necessary to bind together the Subjects of an Army. The slow and dilartory manner in which the Intelligence of peace has arrived to us, has served to highten this Idea; and has led those Men to some Suspicion, that official dispatches and official Declarations have been postponed, through design, that they might be held beyond the Term of their Engagements; under these Impressions, they have in some Instances scarcely been restrained from Acts of Excess. To such a Composition of Men as this Army is formed of, this Idea is perhaps not an unnatural One.

In this situation the proclamation of Congress for a Cessation of Hostilities found us on its Arrival yesterday. This Act being

unaccompanied with any Instructions for my Conduct respecting the discharge of this Part of the Army, should it be found necessary, or any Intimation of the Intention of Congress on that Head, has thrown me into a very disagreeable circumstance: knowing the Temper of the *War Men,* to suppress the publication of this proclamation would increase their Suspicion; and knowing the Expectations, to publish it to men who have not learnt to distinguish between a proclamation for a Cessation of Hostilities, and a definite Declaration of Peace, when they have authentic Information that Peace has actually taken place; would serve to encrease their Expectations of immediate Discharge and stamp any Claims to their further services, with an Appearance of Injustice. Under this Dilemma, and being totally ignorant of the designs of the Enemy in New York, who, from all I am able to collect, are making no shew of an early Evacuation of that City, I found it difficult to decide on the Line of my Duty. I therefore called a full consultation of the General Officers of this Army on the Occasion.[62] It was their unanimous Judgment, that it would be impracticable as well as impolitic to suppress the Proclamation, and that it should be issued in this Days Orders. At the same Time they are strongly impressed with the Ideas of the little remaing hold which, after this publication, we may expect to have upon the Men engaged *for the War,* the[63] necessary there is, that Congress should come to some speedy determination on this interesting point, of what is to be the period of these Mens Service, and that they should give the earliest Communication to me, of their decisions, for my Instruction. Towards effecting this important Object, it has been seriously motioned to me, that I should hint to Congress, the propriety and expediency of their

[62] Apr. 17, 1783.
[63] The draft has "absolute."

appointing a Committee of their own Body, with plenary powers, who may immediately repair to Camp, and who may decide on the necessary Arrangements for this important period. For my own part, I am fully in sentiment with this opinion; as such a measure would not only tend to[64] help us over the difficulty of the moment, but would expedite the Execution of many other arrangements, which will be found necessarily preparatory to our disbandg the present Army. It might also serve to facilitate any negotiations which may be found expedient to enter into with Sir Guy Carleton, for his speedy Evacuation of New York, an object which at present, seems at too great a Distance for our circumstances. Many other matters will undoubtedly present themselves, which we cannot foresee, and which will require frequent references to Congress; and as much Time is lost in Communications between the Army and that Sovereign Body, a Committee on the Spot, who might give an immediate decision, would be of great Importance, and perhaps suppress many disagreeable consequences, which might arise merely from Delay. One Circumstance has already occurred, as Congress will perceive by the inclosed petition from the Troops of the New Jersey Line;[65] another I have this Day heard of in the Connecticut Line; extending to a Claim of Half-pay or Commutation for the *Non*-Commissioned Officers of that Line; how far these Ideas, if not suppressed by some lucky Expedient, may proceed, is beyond my power to divine.

Notwithstanding the length of this Letter, I must beg the Liberty to suggest to Congress an Idea which has been hinted

[64] The draft has "quiet our present uneasiness and."

[65] The petition of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the New Jersey line, which is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, prayed for exemption from taxes and that such exemption be certified to on their discharges.

to me, and which has affected my Mind very forcibly. That is, that at the Discharge of the Men engaged for the War, Congress should be pleased to suffer those Men, non Commissd Officers and Soldiers, to take with them as their own property, and as a Gratuity, the Arms and Accoutrements they now hold. This Act would raise pleasing Sensations in the Minds of those worthy and faithfull Men, who, from their early engaging in the War, at moderate Bounties, and from their patient continuing, under innumerable distresses, have not only deserved nobly from their Country, but have obtained an honorable Distinction over those, who, with shorter Terms, have gained large pecuniary Rewards. This Act, at a comparative small Expence, would be deemed an honorable Testimonial from Congress of the Regard they bear to those distinguished Worthies, and the Sense they have of their suffering Virtues and Services, which have been so happily instrumental towards the security and Establishment of the Rights Liberties and Independence of this rising Empire. These constant companions of their Toils and Dangers, preserved with sacred Care, would be handed down from the present possessors, to their Children, as honorable Badges of Bravery and military Merit; and would probably be bro't forth, on some future Occasion, with Pride and Exultation, to be improved, with the same military Ardor and Emulation, in the Hands of posterity, as they have been used by their forefathers in the present Establishment and foundation of our National Independence and Glory.

Congress will suffer me to repeat my most earnest Wish, that they will be pleased, either by themselves at large, or by their Committee, to pay their earliest Attention to the matters now referred for their Consideration. for I must add, that unless the most speedy Arrangements for the War men are adopted,

I contemplate with Anxiety, the disagreeable Consequences which, I fear will be the Result of much longer Delay. With the highest Respect etc.[66]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, April 18, 1783.

Parole Kenalal. Countersigns Litchfield, Montreal.

For the day tomorrow Brigadier Genl. Stark.
Brigd. Qr. Mr. York Brigade.

The Jersey regiment gives the Guards and the Jersey battalion the fatigues tomorrow.

The Commander in Chief orders the Cessation of Hostilities between the United States of America and the King of Great Britain to be publickly proclaimed tomorrow at 12 o'clock[67] at the Newbuilding, and that the Proclamation[68] which will be communicated herewith, be read tomorrow evening at the head of every regiment and corps of the army. After which the Chaplains with the several Brigades will render thanks to almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his over ruling the wrath of man to his own glory, and causing the rage of war to cease amongst the nations.

Although the proclamation before alluded to, extends only to the prohibition of hostilities and not to the annunciation of a general peace, yet it must afford the most rational and sincere satisfaction to every benevolent mind, as it puts a period to a

[66] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on April 21 and referred to Samuel Osgood, Theodorick Bland, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Richard Peters, on whose report it was resolved, on April 23 that, in the opinion of Congress, the time of service of the men engaged for the war did not expire until the ratification of the definitive articles of peace; that those continuing in the service until that time should be allowed their arms and accoutrements; but that, nevertheless, discretion should be left with the Commander in Chief to grant furloughs, or discharges, to those men, as he should judge most expedient.

[67] The anniversary of the battle of Lexington.

[68] See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Apr. 11, 1783.

long and doubtful contest, stops the effusion of human blood, opens the prospect to a more splendid scene, and like another morning star, promises the approach of a brighter day than hath hitherto illuminated the Western Hemisphere; on such a happy day, a day which is the harbinger of Peace, a day which compleats the eighth year of the war, it would be ingratitude not to rejoice! it would be insensibility not to participate in the general felicity.

The Commander in Chief far from endeavouring to stifle the feelings of Joy in his own bosom, offers his most cordial Congratulations on the occasion to all the Officers of every denomination, to all the Troops of the United States in General, and in particular to those gallant and persevering men who had resolved to defend the rights of their invaded country so long as the war should continue. For these are the men who ought to be considered as the pride and boast of the American Army; And, who crowned with well earned laurels, may soon withdraw from the field of Glory, to the more tranquil walks of civil life.

While the General recollects the almost infinite variety of Scenes thro which we have passed, with a mixture of pleasure, astonishment, and gratitude; While he contemplates the prospects before us with rapture; he can not help wishing that all the brave men (of whatever condition they may be) who have shared in the toils and dangers of effecting this glorious revolution, of rescuing Millions from the hand of oppression, and of laying the foundation of a great Empire, might be impressed with a proper idea of the dignifyed part they have been called to act (under the Smiles of providence) on the stage of human affairs: for, happy, thrice happy shall they be pronounced hereafter, who have contributed any thing, who have performed the meanest office in erecting this steubendous *fabrick* of *Freedom* and *Empire* on the broad basis of Indipendency; who

have assisted in protecting the rights of humane nature and establishing an Asylum for the poor and oppressed of all nations and religions. The glorius task for which we first fleu to Arms being thus accomplished, the liberties of our Country being fully acknowledged, and firmly secured by the smiles of heaven, on the purity of our cause, and the honest exertions of a feeble people (determined to be free) against a powerful Nation (disposed to oppress them) and the Character of those who have persevered, through every extremity of hardship; suffering and danger being immortalized by the illustrious appellation of the *patriot Army:* Nothing now remains but for the actors of this mighty Scene to preserve a perfect, unvarying, consistency of character through the very last act; to close the Drama with applause; and to retire from the Military Theatre with the same approbation of Angells and men which have crowned all their former vertuous Actions. For this purpose no disorder or licentiousness must be tolerated, every considerate and well disposed soldier must remember it will be absolutely necessary to wait with patience untill peace shall be declared or Congress shall be enabled to take proper measures for the security of the public stores &ca.; as soon as these Arrangements shall be made the General is confident there will be no delay in discharging with every mark of distinction and honor all the men enlisted for the war who will then have faithfully performed their engagements with the public. The General has already interested himself in their behalf; and he thinks he need not repeat the assurances of his disposition to be useful to them on the present, and every other proper occasion. In the mean time he is determined that no Military neglects or excesses shall go unpunished while he retains the command of the Army.

The Adjutant General will have such working parties detailed to assist in making the preperations for a general rejoycing as the Chief Engineer with the Army shall call for, and

the Quarter Master Genl. will also furnish such materials as he may want.[69]

The Quarter Master General will without delay procure such a number of Discharges to be printed as will be sufficient for all the men enlisted for the War; he will please to apply to Head Quarters for the form.

An extra ration of liquor to be issued to *every* man tomorrow, to drink Perpetual Peace, Independence and Happiness to the United States of America.

The Inspection of the Army for the month of March will take place in the following manner and on the following days: The Maryland Detachment and Jersey brigade on Monday the 21st; York brigade and Hampshire, 22d; 1st Massachusetts Brigade, 23d; 2d, do, 24th; 3d, do, 25th; The regiments of Artillery at Westpoint, Sappers and Miners, Col. Swifts regimt. and Invalids, 28th; Connecticut brigade, 29th.

Inspection Rolls may be had at Colonel Stewarts Quarters.

Lieutenant Samuel Mellish[70] of the 3d. Massachusetts regiment is appointed Aid de Camp to Brigadier General Greaton and is to be respected accordingly. This appointment to take place from the 7th. day of January last.

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, April 19, 1783.

Parole Peace. Countersigns Unity, Plenty.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier General Dayton. / B. Q. M. from Hampshire B.

The first York regiment gives the Guards tomorrow and the 2d. do. the fatigues.

[69] "April 19th. At noon the proclamation of Congress for a cessation of hostilities was proclaimed at the door of the New Building, followed by three huzzas; after which a prayer was made by the Reverend Mr. Ganno, and an anthem (*Independence,* from Billings,) was performed by vocal and instrumental music."—Heath's *Memoirs.*

[70] He served to June, 1783.

An officer holding a Commission in the Line of the Army of a superior Grade to that he possesses in a particular regiment or corps, is (if a field officer by his superior commission) to be put on the General Roster, and take his tour on Detachments, Courts martial and as officer of the day &ca. He is also to perform all duties in the Line of the state to which he belongs incident to the rank he holds in a regiment or Corps of that state; And in case the duties should in any instance interfere, the Adjutant Generals Roster is to be obeyed in preference to any other. This regulation to remain in force untill contrary orders shall be given.

To erect a frame for the illumination the several corps in this Cantonment are to square and deliver at the Newbuilding on monday next the following pieces of Timber vizt. the:

	Pieces	Feet long	Inches Square
Maryland Detachment	2	30	7.
Jersey regiment	5	30	7.
do. Battalion	2	30	7.
1st. York Regiment	4	30	7.
2d. do.	3	30	7.
Hampshire do.	8	18	7.
do. Battalion	3	18	7.
1st. Massachusetts regiment	9	18	7
4 do. do.	8	18	7.
7 do. do.	4	18	7
do. do. do.	4	19	7
2d. do. do.	8	19	7
5th. do. do.	4	19	7
do. do. do.	8	8	7
8th. do. do.	16	8	7
3d. do. do.	2	14	7
do. do. do.	3	12	7
do. do. do.	6	11	7.

Each Commanding officer of a Brigade is requested to appoint an Officer to assist Colonel Gouvion in making prepera-

tion for the illumination. Colonel Gouvion will meet the officers so appointed at 12 o'clock tomorrow at the New building.

Lieutenant Smith[71] of the 6th. Massachusetts regimt. was tried at the General courtmartial of which Colo. H. Jackson is president, charged with conduct unbecoming the character of an officer by inviting several noncommissioned officers of the 2d. Connecticut regiment to his Quarters at Mr. Cranes in the highlands, Drinking and gaming with them and by his request detaining them from their regiments at evening and morning Roll call. The Court are of opinion that the charges against Lt. Smith are not only not supported but are entirely groundless and they do in the fullest manner acquit him.

The Commander in chief approves the opinion of the Court. Lt. Smith is released from his Arrest.

James Smith, a recruit of the New hampshire Line was tried by the same General Courtmartial and convicted of Desertion in breach of Article 1. section 6. of the Rules and Articles of war, and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

Peter Miller, of the late 4th. New york regiment was also tried by the same court and convicted of Desertion in breach of Art. 1. sect. 6th. of the Rules and Art. of war and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back and be drumed out of the Army.

Caleb Theyer, of the 5th. Massachusetts regt. was tried by the same court and convicted of Desertion in breach of Art. 1. sect. 6th. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

Stephen Aldridge, a Recruit of the Massachusetts Line was tried by the same court and convicted of Desertion, in breach

[71] Lieut. Ebenezer Smith. He had been transferred to the Second Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

of Art. 1st. sect. 6th. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing sentences and orders Peter Millers to take place tomorrow morning.

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, April 19, 1783.

Sir: Agreably to your request I now inclose you a Certificate[72] of your services, as an Officer in the Army of the United States.

You mention in your Letter that tho' your business in France is of a Merchantile Nature, it is your intention to travel in Regimentals; on this I cannot help remarking, that there may be an impropriety in your appearing in a Military dress when the War shall have ceased and the United States shall no longer have an Army existing, and besides, to those acquainted with the Country you are going to, it is well known that the Military and the Mercantile Character, is there totally different and inconsistent with each other, and however respectable the latter may be be here, in France it is even deemed disgraceful for an Officer to engage in Commerce of any kind.

I wish you a pleasant Voyage and safe return and am etc.[73]

To MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AT WAR AND THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

April 19, 1783.

Orders to be given as soon as possible for their Liberation; and to commence their march.

[72] A draft of the certificate referred to, in the writing of David Humphreys, accompanies this letter and is in the *Washington Papers*.

[73] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Sir Guy Carleton to be informed that it is at his Option whether they march all the Way thro the Country, or be conveyed partly by Water. Those of Frederick Town and Winchester will take the route towards Baltimore where they may arrive by the 10th. of May, at which Time if Ships can be sent by Sir Guy, they may embark at that City and proceed by Water to N York; if not, then to go on by Land to the Delaware at Wilmington. The prisoners in Pennsylvania except those at Readg. may all embark in the Delaware, in Case Ships are sent from N York and Arrive by 5th. of May to receive them. The place of Embarkation to be at Philadelphia.

Sir Guy, if he pleases, to send an Additional Number of Officers to attend and direct their march and to prevent Disorders.

If Ships are not sent to receive them, then the whole will be marched, in Convenient Detachments under a small Guard thro the Country, to Elizabeth Town.

Waggons for Invalids and Baggage to be provided by the U States.

A Proclamation to be issued, for all such prisoners as have been suffered to go into the Country for Labor, to rejoin their Corps by a certain Time; they to be informed that all prisoners are sett at Liberty, and to return to Europe.

Sir Guy Carleton, if he accepts the proposal of sendg Ships to receive any part or all the Prisoners, he is to be servd directly to the Secty at War in Phila. signifying his Intention, that the necessary Directions may be given.

The Prisoners at Reading about 3 or 400, are to march through the Country directly to Eliza. Town.

Memo. of Numbers: at Frederick and Winchester includg Woman and Children, 1500. In Pennsylvania the Total (of which at Reading 300. or 400) 4500.[74]

[74] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., who has indorsed it with the date "20th Apr 1783."

*To MISS SIDNEY LEE[75]

Head Quarters in the State of New York, April 20, 1783.

Madam: Not till yesterday was I honored with your favors of the 14th. of January.

I delay not a moment to assure you, that, with great pleasure I undertake to procure for you an authentic Copy of Genl. Lee's Will, in which, from report, you have a considerable Interest.

If upon receipt of it, it shall appear that any opinion of mine can be of Service to you, I will submit it to your consideration with great chearfulness. In the mean while, permit me to offer you compliments of condolence on the loss of so near a relation; who was possessed of many[76] great qualities, and to assure you of the Respect and consideration with which I have the honor etc.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, April 20, 1783,
7 o'Clock at Evening.

Dear Sir: In consequence of a Resolution of Congress ordering Arrangements to be formed by me and the Minister at War for the Liberation of Prisoners, and directing a Negotiation to be entered into with Sir Guy Carleton, for the Delivery of the British Posts, I am this Moment returned from Ringwood, where I went Yesterday, to meet and have a Conference with General Lincoln. As the Negotiation with Sir Guy, has great reference to your State, I wish to see your Excellency before I write him on the Subject, and from what I had been told, I promised myself the Pleasure of Meeting you on my

[75] Sister of Maj. Gen. Charles Lee.
[76] The draft has the words "and amiable" crossed off.

Return from Ringwood, at Head Quarters. If it is consistent with Your Excellencys Business and Convenience, I will be exceedg glad to see you here in the Morng. An Express is dispatched with this, on purpose to make the request. I have the Honor etc.

PS. I am obliged to send off my Letter to Sir Guy Tomorrow, on Acco of the Arrangement respectg the prisoners.[77]

[CH. H. S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, April 20, 1783.

Parole Arts. Countersigns Agriculter, Commerce.

For the day tomorrow { Brig. Genl. Putnam. / Brig. Qr. Mr. 1st. Massa. Brigade.

The 1st. Massachusetts regiment gives the Guards and the 7th. the fatigues tomorrow.

In future when a regiment or corps wants wood for fuel or any other necessary purpose, application is to be made to the Commanding officer, who is hereby directed to order a sufficient Detachment under the direction of a Commissioned officer to procure it from the wood already felled in the vicinity of the Cantonment: of which there appears to be a sufficient quantity. No wood of any kind is hereafter to be felled for any purpose without a written direction from the Quarter master Genl. (except the timber ordered Yesterday to be procured.)

All the Axes now in the possession of regiments or corps are forthwith to be collected and lodged with their respective Quarter Masters, to whom officers having the direction of wood cutting parties are to apply for axes occasionally, giving receipts for the number received and taking care to deliver them on the return of the party.

[77] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

As there are sufficient and convenient communications opened between the different Cantonments of the Army, and between these last, Newburgh and New Windsor, all persons belonging to the Army are forbidden to cross or lay open the fencing of inclosed Meadows or fields, and the removing or carrying away of rails or any kind of fencing stuff for fuel or other purposes, under the penalty of severe punishment.

The orders of the 30th. of September 1782 issued at Verplanks point prohibiting the making of fires in the vicinity of camp except on necessary occasions are to be observed in this Cantonment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, April 21, 1783.

Parole Boston. Countersigns Philadelphia, Baltimore.

The third Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards of the 2d regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

Lt. Henry Nelson,[78] of the 3d. Massachusetts regt. is appointed pay master to the same, vice Lt. Mellesh resigned that office. This appointment to take place from the 7th. of January last.

Two good Carpinters from each regimt. and corps, and one serjeant (a Carpinter if possible) from each Brigade in this Cantonment to be sent to the Newbuilding tomorrow morning 6 o'clock. They will receive orders from Col. Gouvion and continue untill relieved.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 21, 1783.

Sir: The cessation of hostilities having been now proclaimed you will permit any Citizen of the State of New York or of the

[78] He served to June, 1784.

United States to pass and repass your Post with any Vessels, Boats or Water Craft, without any hindrance or molestation, on their reporting themselves to you or to such Officer as shall be appointed by you for the purpose. I am etc.[79] [MS.H.S.]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, April 21, 1783.

Dear Sir: In answer to your private letter of the 16th. I can promise no more than a disposition to promote your wishes; and this, if it is in my power, and circumstances are not opposed to it, will carry me to the extent of your desire. But no Peace establishment is yet adopted, nor do I know upon what terms it will; whether Continental, State, or any at all; whether the present Troops (who have part of their term of Service to perform) with their Officers, will be employed, or New Corps raised; In a word, I am, at this moment quite in the dark; consequently cannot speak with decision to you. With great regard etc.

To SIR GUY CARLETON

Head Quarters, April 21, 1783.

Sir: I have the satisfaction of inclosing to your Excellency a Proclamation which I have received from the Sovereign Power of the United States, ordering a general Cessation of Hostilities, as well by Sea as Land, with Directions that the same should be published to all their Subjects under my Command. In Compliance to these Instructions the same has been made Public in the American Camp on the 19th. with my Orders that It

[79] In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The same letter was also sent to Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith at Dobbs Ferry.

should be made known and publicly proclaimed at all the out Posts of the American Army, as soon as possible.

In Consequence of this Declaration and in Conformity to the Articles of the Treaty, Congress have been pleased to pass their Resolutions of the 15th. instant, directing Arrangements to be formed for the Liberation of all prisoners, and other purposes which your Excellency will Collect from the Inclosed Copy Which I transmit for your Observation.

In a Conference which I have had yesterday with the Minister at War agreable to the Terms of the above Resolution, It has been agreed between us, that the land Prisoners should be liberated as soon as possible, and that Orders should be immediately given for commencing their March towards N York. But as their Situation by being removed to the interior of the Country, is far distant from N York, which will make their March disagreeable and lengthy; we have agreed to submit it to your Excellencys Option, whether to have them marched the whole distance through the Country, Or to have them delivered at the nearest Water which may be convenient for your Ships to receive them; should you choose the latter the followg arrangement has been determined. The prisoners who are lodged at Frederick Town and Winchester in the States of Virginia and Maryland, in Number about 1500 including Women and Children, will begin their March on the Route towards Baltimore, where they may arrive On the 10th of May; at which Time, should your Ships be ready to receive them there, they may be embarked and proceed to N York; if Ships are not directed to receive them at the Time mentioned, Baltimore, they will proceed by Land to the Delaware. The remainder of the Prisoners, being in Pennsylvania, amounting to about 4500, may all (except those at Reading, which are between 300 and 400) be embarked with those from Frederick and Winchester,

should they not be received at Baltimore, at Philadelphia, provided your Ships are there by the 5th. of May at farthest to receive them. Should Ships not be ordered by your Excellency to take them by Water, they will be marched in convenient Detachments of about 500 each, through the Country to Elizabeth Town, with all convenient Expedition. In any Case, those from Reading, being in the upper part of Pennsylvania, will march directly to Elizabeth Town.

It is also submitted to your Excellencys Option, to send or not, as you shall think proper, an additional Number of Officers to attend the March of the Prisoners through the Country, and to prevent any irregularities that disorderly persons may be disposed to commit.

In either Alternative, respectg the Receipt of the prisoners, your Excellency, will be pleased to give the earliest Information to the Minister at War in Philadelphia, of your Determinations, that he may be able to make the necessary and timely Dispositions to pay all possible attention to your Choice; to expedite this Purpose, and for the Convenience of Transmission I inclose a passport for such Officer as you shall think proper to charge with your Dispatches on this Occasion.[80]

Respecting the other Subjects contained in the enclosed Resolution of Congress, as they may be discussed with more precision and dispatch by a personal conference, than by writing, I have to propose a personal Interview between your Excellency and myself, at some convenient Time and intermediate place such as may be agreed upon between your Excellency and Colo Humphry, my Aide D Camp, who will have he honor to deliver this Letter. I would only suggest that in point of time the earliest Day that your Excellency can name, will be

[80] The draft of a passport, in blank, for Carleton to fill in with the names of such officers as he wished, accompanies this letter, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

most agreeable to me. Should an Interview be consented to on your part, the Governor of this State, being particularly interested in Any Arrangements which respect the Restitution of the Post of N York, will attend me, on this Occasion.[81] I am etc.[82]

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, April 22, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your two favors, dated the 12th. and 15th. instant.

In Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of the 15th. and the express declarations of the Secretary at War, respecting the Sense and Expectations of Congress. Arrangements have been agreed upon between him and me, for an immediate Liberation of all land prisoners; and I have Yesterday given this Information to Sir Guy Carleton. The particulars of the Arrangement, with the Option given the British Commander in Chief, you will obtain thro' the Minister at War.

In order to obtain the Sense of Sir Guy upon the other matters contained in the Resolution of the 15th., I have proposed a personal Interview with him at an early Day. The result of this Meeting, if acceeded to, will probably lead us to a decision

[81] The letter itself was sent into New York by the hand of Lieut. Col. David Humphreys, for whom a passport was issued April 21. The draft of this passport is in the *Washington Papers*.

In reply Carleton wrote (April 24): "Considering the quantity of tonnage necessary for the evacuation of this place, and that most part of what we have at hand is now actually employed in this business, and in the removing of incumbrances, which must be sent off previous to our departure, I am reduced to the necessity of adopting the march of those prisoners by land, and I shall accordingly avail myself of your Excellency's passport, and acquaint the Minister at War of the choice I am obliged to make, and the reasons of it. I cannot decline the personal interview proposed by your Excellency, and purpose being in a frigate as near Tappan as may be, where I understand you mean to lodge. If I hear nothing from you to occasion an alteration, I intend being up on the 5th. of May, accompanied by a smaller vessel or two, for the accommodation of Lieutenant Governor Elliot, Chief Justice William Smith, and part of my family." Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[82] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

upon some Questions which are now doubtfull; and that with greater precision,[83] than could otherwise be procured. With great Regard etc.[84]

*To JAMES MADISON

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Sir: Major McHenry, formerly an Assistant Secretary to me, and afterwards Aid de Camp to the Marqs. de la Fayette, informs me that Congress are about to appoint Official Secretaries for their Ministers abroad, and expresses a wish to go in that Character to the Court of Versailles, or London.

Justice, if I could divest myself of the inclination to serve this Gentleman, would compel me to represent him as a Man of Letters and Abilities, of great integrity, sobriety and prudence. In a word, a Man of strict honor; possessing all those good qualities (without a bad one with which I am acquainted) necessary to fit him for such an Office. He would, I am perswaded, render the Minister to whom he should be appointed Secretary, very happy in such a connection; as he is of an amiable temper; very obliging, and of polished manners. His Interest too lyes in this Country.

I have now to entreat your excuse for the freedom of this recommendation; a desire to serve a Man who has followed my fortunes, and shared in my perplexities, has prompted me to it; but I never have, nor never will, from these considerations alone recommend a person to an Office of trust who I am not morally certain is fully competent to the duties of it. I have the honor etc.[85]

[83] The draft has "and Dispach."

[84] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[85] The draft is indorsed by Washington: "A Similar Letter was written to Mr. Livingston Secretary of F: Affairs."

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: I did not receive your letter of the 15th. till after my return from Ringwood, where I had a meeting with the Secretary at War for the purpose of making arrangements for the release of our Prisoners, agreeably to the resolve of Congress of the 15th. Instt.

Finding a diversity of opinion respecting the Treaty, and the line of conduct we ought to observe with the Prisoners; I requested, in precise terms, to know from Genl. Lincoln (before I entered on the business) whether we were to exercise our own judgment with respect to the *time,* as well as *mode* of releasing them, or was to be confined to the latter. Being informed that we had no option in the first, Congress wishing to be eased of the expence as soon as possible, I acted *solely* on that ground.

At the same time I scruple not to confess to you, that if this measure was not dictated by necessity, it is, in my opinion, an impolitic one; as we place ourselves in the power of the British, before the Treaty is definitive.

The manner in which Peace was first announced, and the subsequent declarations of it, have led the Country and Army into a belief that it was final. the ratification of the Preliminary Articles on the 3d. of February, so far confirmed this, that one consequence resulting from it is, the Soldiers for the War conceive the term of their Services has actually expired; and I believe it is not in the power of Congress or their Officers, to hold them much, if any, longer; for we are obliged at this moment to increase our Guards to prevt. rioting, and the Insults which the Officers meet with in attempting to hold them to their duty. The proportion of these Men amount to Seven

Elevenths of this Army; these we shall loose at the moment the British Army will receive, by their Prisoners, an augmentation of five or 6000 Men.

It is not for me to investigate the causes, which induced this measure; nor the policy of those Letters (from Authority) which gave the Ton to the present sentiments; but since they have been adopted, we ought, in my opinion, to put a good face upon matters; and by a liberal conduct throughout, on our part (freed from appearances of distrust) try if we cannot excite similar dispositions on theirs. Indeed circumstanced as things *now* are, I wish most fervently that all the Troops which are not retained for a Peace Establishment were to be discharged immediately, or such of them at least as do not incline to await the Settlement of their Accts. If they continue here, their claims, I can plainly perceive, will encrease; and our perplexities multiply. A Petition is this moment handed to me from the Non comd. Officers of the Connecticut line solliciting half Pay; It is well drawn I am told, but I did not read it; I sent it back without appearing to Understand the Contents, because it did not come through the Channel of their Officers. This may be followed by others, and I mention it to shew the necessity, the absolute necessity of discharging the *Wars men* as soon as possible.

I have taken much pains to support Mr. Morris's Administration in the Army, and in proportion to its numbers I believe he had not more friends any where; but if he will neither adopt the mode which has been suggested, point out any other, nor shew cause why the first is either impracticable or impolitic (I have heard he objects to it,) they will certainly attribute their disappointment to a luke warmness in him, or some design incompatable with their Interests; and here, my dear Colo. Hamilton, let me assure you, that it would not be more difficult to

still the raging Billows in a tempestuous Gale, than to convince the Officers of this Army of the justice or policy of paying men in Civil Offices full wages, when *they* cannot obtain a Sixtieth part of their dues. I am not unapprised of the Arguments which are made use of upon this occasion, to discriminate the cases; but they really are futile; and may be summed up in this, that, tho' both are contending for the same rights, and expect equal benefits, yet, both cannot submit to the same inconveniences to obtain them; otherwise, to adopt the language of simplicity and plainness, a Ration of Salt Porke with, or without Pease, as the case often is, would support the one as well as the other and in such a struggle as ours, wd. in my opinion, be alike honourable in both.

My anxiety to get home increases with the prospect of it, but when is it to happen? I have not heard that Congress have yet had under consideration the Lands, and other gratuities, which at different periods of the War, have been promised to the Army. Do not these things evince the necessity of a Committee's repairing to Camp, in order to arrange and adjust matters without spending time in a tedious exchange of Letters. Unless something of this kind is adopted, business will be delayed and expences accumulated; or the Army will break up in disorder; go home enraged, complaining of injustice, and committing enormities on the innocent Inhabitants in every direction.

I write to you unreservedly. If therefore, contrary to my apprehension, all these matters are in a proper train, and Mr. Morris has devised means to give the Army three Months pay, you will, I am perswaded excuse my precipitency and sollicitude, by ascribing it to an earnest wish to see the War happily, and honourably terminated; to my anxious desire of enjoying same repose; and the necessity of my paying a little attention

to my private concerns, which have suffered considerably in Eight years absence.

Mr. Henry, expressing, a letter I have lately received from him, a wish to be appointed Official Secretary to the Court of Versailles, or London, I have by this oppertunity written to Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Maddison; speaking of him in warm terms, and wish him success with all my heart. I am etc.[86]

*To JACOB MORRIS

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Sir: I have lately received a Letter from Miss Lee, Sister to the deceased General Lee, requesting me to obtain for her, an authentic copy of his Will. this I have promised to do, and know of no way so likely to effect it, *soon,* as by applying to you. May I therefore entreat the favor of you to procure, and send to me an attested Copy thereof? any expence that may attend it, I will pay.

If I knew in what Office the Will was recorded I would have made a direct application to it without giving you any trouble; as I do not this, must be my apology for the application from Sir Yr etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, April 22, 1783.

Parole Ticonderoga. Countersigns Niagara, Detroit.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier Genl Patterson. / B. Q. M. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

The Hampshire regiment gives the Guards and the Hampshire Battalion the fatigues tomorrow.

[86] From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Untill further orders there is to be a Camp Guard mounted by each Brigade in this Cantonment, for the preservation of good order.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, April 23,[87] 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 10th. instant.

Congress having, by several Arrangements, given me reason to believe, that their sense of the preliminary Articles is such, that there is no doubt but they will terminate in a definitive Treaty; I cannot suppose that there will be a Necessity of the further Continuance of the French Troops in the United States. Nor can I have a Wish that those brave Men, Officers and Soldiers, who have served so nobly, and deserved so honorably from these States, should meet with One moments unnecessary Delay in their return to their native Country and Friends. But the desire of my Heart is, that they will be pleased to carry with them, an Idea of the high veneration I have conceived of their services, and the particular Attachment I shall always entertain for their Persons. With the highest Respect etc.[88]

To BARON DE L'ESTRADE[89]

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter dated St. Domingo 25th of March, requesting my Interposition with Congress, and the Ambassador from the United States at the Court of France, for your obtaing a Command in that Island.

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[87] The draft is dated April 22.

[88] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Affs. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[89] Claude, Baron de L'Estrade, lieutenant colonel of the Regiment Gatinais (after Yorktown called the Royale-Auvergne).

Sensible of your merit as an Officer, and willing to Interest myself in your favor as far as circumstances will permit, I have forwarded your Memorial to Congress, and have communicated your Request and prentensions to Doctr Franklin, with a Desire that he will be pleased to use his Influence in France, as far as the Rules of Propriety will admit, towards obtaing for you, the Object you so earnestly wish.[90] I am &c.[91]

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 16th. instant.

The case of Mr. Reckless I have referred to the Secrety. at War, who will take care to fulfill his wishes.[92]

In answer to your Questions respecting the Engineers, I can only say, that a Peace Establishment is now under consideration, in which it is recommended that Congress should form Military Academies and Manufactories, as a part of their Establishment; should this Idea be adopted, and the plan carried into execution; it will doubtless, be necessary for us to retain some of the French Engineers now in America, for the first beginning of the Institution. The particular Number or persons cannot now be pointed out, but I am persuaded that none will be more agreeable than those Gentlemen of your Corps who have distinguished themselves in our Service with so much Ability and Satisfaction. Yours &c.[93]

[90] On April 23 Washington wrote to the President of Congress, forwarding L'Estrade's memorial, and Washington's letter to Benjamin Franklin, on the matter. The letter to Congress and the baron's memorial are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress.*

[91] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[92] On this same day (April 23) Washington wrote to the Secretary at War that Mr. Reckless "havg served a long Time in the Corps [of Engineers] with an Encouragement of a Commission, I think it very proper that his Expectations should be fulfilled." This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

[93] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb and Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Head Quarters, April 23, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose to you, a Letter and Memorial I have just received from Baron De L'Estrade, an Old Veteran who served with us at the Siege of York; from my acquaintance with this Officer, joined to the general good Character he had, I feel strongly inclined to serve him; but there may be many reasons to render such an interference as he requests improper; all I can do therefore is to submit the matter to you, with a wish that so far as Circumstances and the rules of propriety will admit, you may interest yourself in his favor.[94]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, April 23, 1783.

Parole Ticonderoga. Countersigns Niagara, Detroit.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Dayton. / Brg. Qr. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

The Maryland Detachment gives the Guards and the 4th. Massachusetts regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

In future the Troop shall beat at 8 o'clock in the morning and the Tattoo at 9 in the evening.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23,[95] 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 14th. instant.

Apprehending the same delay in the Conveyance of the News of Peace by Way of Canada, which you mention, I have written to Brigr Genl McLean, commandg at Niagara, giving him

[94] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.
[95] The draft is dated April 22.

the Information as I had received it from Sir Guy Carleton. This Letter was inclosed to your Care more than a Week ago; I hope it has been received, and transmitted agreeable to my desire.

This Intelligence given to the Western posts, altho not *official,* yet will I hope, be received with some Attention, and serve to prevent those mischiefs which we have been led to apprehend, from the late disposition of the Indians.

Your Congratulations on the great Event of Peace, I accept with much pleasure, and beg you to be assured that I make you a Return of mine with equal satisfaction.

Your request to go to New York, I shall gladly indulge as soon as matters are a little more settled than they are at present. With Regard I am etc.[96] [H.L.]

*To JAMES McHENRY

Newburgh, April 24, 1783.

Dear sir: Immediately upon the receipt of your letter of the 15th. Expressive of your wish to go to the Court of Versailles, or London as official Secretary to the Embassy, I wrote to Messrs. Livingston and Maddison on the subject, and mentioned you in warm terms to them. the Letters will go by this days Post.

I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulation on the approaching Peace; none can enjoy it with more heart felt satisfaction than myself; but when I shall be able to leave this place is uncertain. there are many embarrassing matters to

[96] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On April 23 Congress resolved that the time of the men enlisted for the war did not expire until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace; that such noncommissioned officers and soldiers as remained until that period should be allowed to retain their arms and accoutrements; and that the Commander in Chief could grant furloughs or discharges as he might deem expedient. (See General Orders, May 1, 1783.)

settle first, and I am at this moment surrounded by more perplexing circumstances than you can have an idea of.

As I shall have pleasure in spending a day at Baltimore on my return home, I can have no merit in complying with what you say is the wish of the Citizens of that place;[97] from whom I have received many marks of attention and politeness. I am etc.

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN

Newburgh, April 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: I received with much pleasure the kind congratulations contained in your letter of the 25th. Ulto. from Philadelphia, on the honorable termination of the War. No Man, indeed, can relish the approaching Peace with more heart felt, and grateful satisfaction than myself. A Mind always upon the stretch, and tortured with a diversity of perplexing circumstances, needed a respite; and I anticipate the pleasure of a little repose and retirement. It has been happy for me, always to have Gentlemen about me willing to share my troubles, and help me out of difficulties. to none of these can I ascribe a greater share of merit than to you.

I can scarce form an idea at this moment, when I shall be able to leave this place. the distresses of the Army for want of Money; the embarrassments of Congress, and the conseqt. delays, and disappointments on all sides, encompass me with difficulties; and produce, every day, some fresh source for uneasiness. But as I now see the Port opening to which I have been steering, I shall persevere till I have gained admittence. I will

[97] McHenry had written (April 15) that the citizens of Baltimore "all anxiously wish to possess you for *one day* at Baltimore, and I beg you will make it convenient to oblige them in what they have so much at heart." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

then leave the States to improve their present constitution, so as to make that Peace and Independencey for which we have fought and obtained, a blessing to Millions yet unborn; but to do this, liberallity must supply the place of prejudice, and *unreasonable* jealousies must yield to that confidence, which *ought* to be placed in the sovereign Power of these States. In a word the Constitution of Congress must be competent to the *general purposes of Government;* and of such a nature as to bind us together. otherwise, we may well be compared to a rope of Sand, and shall as easily be broken and in a short time become the sport of European politics, altho' we might have no *great* inclination to jar among ourselves.

From the intimation in your Letter, and what I have heard from others I presume this letter will find you in the State of Wedlock. On this happy event I pray you, and your Lady, to accept of my best wishes, and sincerest congratulations; in which Mrs. Washington joins hers most cordially. With the most Affectionate esteem, etc.[98]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Thursday, April 24, 1783.

Parole Philadelphia. Countersigns Newyork, Boston.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier General Putnam. / B. Q. M. from York brigade.

The 8th. Massachusetts regiment gives the Guards and the 5th. regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

Lieutenant John Blair of the Jersey regt. is appointed Paymaster to the same vice Lt. Martin[99] promoted. This appointment to take place the 6th. January last.

[98] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[99] Lieut. Absalom Martin, of the First New Jersey Regiment.

As it may happen that guards or Detachments not detailed when a regiment is warned for duty may be called for on the Grand perade, or even the whole regt. sent on immediate duty, it is to march to the Grand parade prepared for such an event. The Platoons are to be told off and the regt. completely formed for exercise on its own parade previous to its marching; having arrived on the Grand parade, formed the Line and dressed the ranks, the Commanding officer of the regt. is to inform the General of the day that the regt. is ready for exercise.

If the General orders the Guards to be turned off without any exercise, the Colo. or commandg. officer is to order the Adjutant to form the Guards and then take post together with all the other Field officers of the regt. as officers of the day. The Adjutant shall then order the officers and men warned for immediate duty to advance to the front, face to the right, march and draw up on the right of the regt.; The reserve shall then by order from the senior Captn., close up to the left, dress ranks, order their arms and remain perfectly steady untill the Adjt. has examined and formed the Guards agreably to the Regulations.

When the Guards are formed the Adjutant shall order the Reserve, to sholder, the whole to present arms and inform the General of the day that the Guards are ready.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, April 25, 1783.

Parole Providence. Countersigns Portsmouth, Hartford.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Q. M. Hampshire Brid.

The Jersey Battalion gives the Guards and the Jersey regt. the Fatigues tomorrow.

Each Brigade in this Cantonment is to deliver at the New-building tomorrow 12 o'clock, one piece of well hewn Timber thirty feet long, and 7 inches square.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 18th. was received Yesterday informing of your sending on the dispatches to Genl McLean, and the Sum of Expence:

Agreeable to your Desire I have engaged the twenty seven pounds N York Currency to be deposited in the Hands of Mr Glen at Schenectady. Colo Duer has promised me to have this Done by the Time you mention.

The Information forwarded by you to the post of Oswego, is perfectly approved by me and hope it will have a salutary Effect. I am &c.[1]

To MONSIEUR LE GRAND[2]

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th. inst. And am obliged by the Expressions of Congratulation which you are pleased to make on the happy Event of a Peace.

You will pardon me, when I inform you, that I should gladly comply with your request of recommendg you to the Minister of France, did I not conceive that such interposition would involve an Idea of Impropriety. For me, a stranger, to interest myself in Appointments to be made by another Nation, might perhaps appear officious; I am therefore obliged to decline it. At the same Time I am persuaded, that your Character and

[1] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[2] Formerly the French consul at Boston.

Merits are so well known to the Minister, that my Interposition in your favor, with the Chevalr. will be unnecessary. I am, &c.[3]

To JOHN DE NEUFVILLE

Head Quarters, April 25, 1783.

Sir: I have been very agreeably favored with your Letter of the 25th. of febry.[4] dated from Germany.

The part your States[5] have taken in the cause of the United States of America, has inspired the Sons of the Latter with the happiest presages of a most benificial Connection between the two Republics. Sister Republics whose similarity of Constitution, Interests and Religion bid fair to bind them together by the most lasting Ties. The Idea gives me peculiar Satisfaction; And it is the Wish of my Heart, that the Union now commencing, may be as durable as it is pleasing; nay, that, grounded in reciprocal Interest and Affection, it may be perpetual as Time.

The distinguished part you have taken in the great Events of the present Age, and your Affection for the Interests and Happiness of our rising Nation, will endear your Character with the Sons of American Freedom, among whom you have long been spoken of with Terms of particular Veneration and Respect.

For the Return of those worthy Characters the Baron Vander Capellon[6] and Pensionary Van Berkel[7] to the affection of their Countrymen, and their former Station and Usefulness in your Republic, I most sincerely rejoice; and beg leave, with great sincerity, to participate in your Joy on that happy Event, which is a Subject of my warmest Congratulations to you.

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[3] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[4] Should be February 15.

[5] The United Netherlands.

[6] Joan Derk, Baron Vander Capellen de Pol, a member of the House of Nobles of the Province of Overijssel, Holland.

[7] Engelbert Francis Van Berckel, Grand Pensionary of Holland.

If in any period of my Life, I can ever be serviceable, by myself or Friends to the particular Interest of yourself or Family, you may be assured the Occasion will give me the highest satisfaction, and will be esteemed among the most fortunate Circumstances that shall ever attend me. I am &c.[8]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, April 26, 1783.

Parole Williamsburgh. Countersigns York, Hampton.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier Genl. Patterson. / Brigd. Qr. Mr. 1. Massa. Brigade.

The 2nd. Newyork regt. gives the Guards and the 1st. Newyork regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, April 27, 1783.

Parole Cumberland. Countersigns Bedford, Westmoreland.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Qr. Mr. from the 3d. Massa. Brigade.

The Hampshire regt. gives the Guards and the 1st. Massachusetts regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Maryland Detachment and Hampshire battalion will march on tuesday next to the relief of the 6th. Massachusetts regt. on the Lines.

The Board appointed to take into consideration the claims of the Candidates for the Badge of merit.[9] Report. That Serjeant Churchill of the 2d regt. of Light Dragoons and Serjeant Brown[10] of the late 5th Connecticut regt. are in their opinion

[8] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[9] Now known as the "Purple Heart."
[10] Sergt. William Brown.

severally entitled to the badge of Military merit and do therefore recommend them to His Excellency the Commander in chief, as suitable characters for that honorary distinction.

The Commander in cheif is pleased to order the before named Serjt. Elijah Churchill of the 2d. regt. of Light Dragoons and Serjt. Brown of the late 5th. Connecticut regiment to be each of them invested with the badge of merit. They will call at Head Quarters on the third of May, when the necessary Certificates and Badges will be ready for them.

To DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, April 28, 1783.

Sir: Being informed by Colo Humphry as well as by your Letter to me, that you have been induced to accept, for the present, the superintendence of the Embarkation from N York of the Tories and Refugees who are leaving the Country, and to prevent if possible, their carrying off any Negroes or other property of the Inhabitants of the United States; [and having seen Sir Guy Carleton Orders on this Head] I take the Liberty of inclosing to you a List and description of Negroes which has been sent me by Govr. Harrison of Virginia, and to beg that you will improve the Opportunity you will have, of obtaing and securing them agreeable to the Govr's Request, if they are to be found in the City. Your Endeavours will not only be very obliging to the Governor, but will be thankfully acknowledged by me.

Some of my own slaves, [and those of Mr. Lund Washington who lives at my Ho] may probably be in N York but I am unable to give you their Descriptions; their Names being so easily changed, will be fruitless to give you. If by Chance you should come at the knowledge of any of them, I will be much obliged by your securing them, so that I may obtain them again.

This Business which you have undertaken, altho troublesome to yourself, and as I imagine, very difficult in the Execution; yet, as I am persuaded you have accepted it from the best motives, will I hope, be of utility to the Subjects of the United States, and therefore cannot, I think, involve any impropriety of Conduct in your being concerned, untill Measures are adopted by Congress, for the Appointment of persons for this purpose. With much regard etc.

[PS. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Mr. Lund Washington respecting *some* of his Negroes, a list of which with my own is herewith inclosed.][11]

To CAPTAIN JOHN WORMELEY

Head Quarters, April 28, 1783.

Sir: In reply to your Letter of the 17th. Instant I can only say: That having forwarded your Letter to Governor Harrison, by a good Conveyance, and having good reason to suppose it has not failed; it will be very improper for me, in my situation, to interest myself any further; nor can I presume to give you any further Directions in your Case until you have an Answer to your Application to the State of Virginia. I am &c.[12]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, April 28, 1783.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

[11] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Boston Public Library. The portions in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling is followed. In addition, the draft, which does not contain the P. S., has the following crossed off at the end of the letter: "This Appointment, I should hope, will be soon made, as the Secretary of foreign Affairs has been written to on the Subject."

[12] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

The 7th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 4th. the fatigues tomorrow.

Major Sumner[13] is appointed a member of the board whereof General Greaton is president, vice Major Fish on Court martial.

At the Genl. courtmartial of which Col. H. Jackson is president, Lieutenant Abraham Kinney[14] of Sheldons Light Dragoons was tried. 1st. for going below our Lines on the 4th of February last without proper authority or liberty for so doing.

2dly. For aiding, assisting, conniving at and being concerned in an illicit intercourse of Traffic with the Enemy on the said 4th. of February in contempt and disobedience of the orders of His Excellency the Commander in chief of December 12th. 1779.

3dly. For opposing and resisting Lieutt. Stewart[15] in the exercise of his duty, exerting himself to detect and prevent such illicit intercourse: agreably to the above mentioned orders on the same 4th. of February.

4thly. For leaving the Cantonment of Genl. Hazens regt. at Pompton in contempt and disobedience of the orders of Brigadier Genl. Hazen of the 5th. of February last.

The Court on consideration are of opinion that the 1st. and 3d. charges against Lt. Kenney are supported, yet they do not find his opposition to Lt. Stewart was attended with an intention of encourageing the illicit Traffick. They are also of opinion that the 2d. and 4th. Charges are not supported.

The Court adjudges the conduct of Lt. Kenney as found supported on the 1st. and 3d. charges to be in breach of article 5th. section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentence him to ask pardon of Lieutt. Stewart and to be reprimanded in Genl. orders. They acquit him of the 2d. and 4th. charges.

[13] Maj. Job Sumner.

[14] Lieut. Abraham Kenny (Kinney), of the Second Continental Dragoons. He retired in October, 1783.

[15] Lieut. William Stuart (Stewart), of the Second Canadian Regiment.

The Commander in cheif approves the opinion of the court.

Tho, it does not appear from the trial that Mr. Kenney was concerned in any illicit Traffic, yet his going below the Lines and being there in company with persons of suspicious characters was highly improper. His conduct in opposing Lt. Stewart in the execution of his duty, and the language it appears he made use of on that occasion were derogatory to the character an officer should support.

When Lieutenant Kenney has complied with the sentence he is to be released, from his arrest.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, April 29, 1783.

Parole Jersey. Countersigns Princeton, Trintown.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Qr. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

The 2d. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 3d. regt. the Fatigues tomorrow.

To CAPTAINS JOHN CARLISLE,[16] LEONARD BLEECKER,[17] AND JAMES GREGG[18]

Head Quarters, April 30, 1783.

Gentlemen: It having been suggested to me that such a Measure would be agreeable to many Officers, I had, Some Time before I received your Letter and Memorial of the 26th instant, written to the Secty at War, making the same proposition as is mentioned by you, exclusive of the Idea of Emoluments (which Idea was particularly hinted); and grounded the propriety of the Measure upon the principle of its involving

[16] Of the Second Canadian Regiment. He retired in July, 1783.

[17] Capt. Leonard Bleeker, of the First New York Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

[18] Of the First New York Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

no additional Expence in the Execution; at the same Time that it would prove an agreeable Reward to Merit, and be a grateful Satisfaction to many deserving Officers.

This proposition is probably now under Consideration; to extend it therefore at this Time, so as to embrace the Emoluments of Compensation, would I confess, be going beyond my own Ideas, and would perhaps be a means of preventing the Attainment of the *Rank* I have solicited. I would advise therefore to a suspension at least, for the present if not a suppression of the Memorial, which has been handed me. I am &c.[19]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, April 30, 1783.

Parole Portugal. Countersigns Lisbon, Oporto.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Qr. Mr. York brigade.

The 5th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards, and the 8th. the Fatigues tomorrow.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, April 30, 1783.

Sir: I inclose to you the Reports, which I have received from the several Lines and Corps of the Army under my Command, accepting the Commutation proposed by the Resolution of Congress of the 22d of March. Colo Olney's Regiment being at Saratoga, I have not yet been made acquainted with their Election, but will forward it as soon as received.

You will also find enclosed a Copy of a Letter from Brigr Genl Irvine,[20] which I send to you to be communicated to Congress, that they may be acquainted with the Disposition of

[19] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[20] Irvine's letter of April 16, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

the Indians, and decide on some measures for the Security of the back Inhabitants, against the Designs of the Savages. I would only suggest whether a movement of some part, or all the Pennsylvania Troops with those of Virginia at Winchester at the moment, towards the back Settlements, might not have a happy Influence towards checking these Mischiefs and stoppg the progress of the Indians. At the same Time, those Troops, at least such of them whose Times of Service do not expire with the War, may be advancing towards the Western posts, which Congress may think proper to establish, [rendezvousing first at Pittsburg].

I have received your two favors of the 22d and 24th. instant, with their several Enclosures. I have the honor, etc.[21]

*To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Newburgh, April 30, 1783.

My dear Sir: I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulations on the close of the War, and the glorious Peace which is held out to us, but not yet made definitive; I return them with great cordiallity and heart felt pleasure; and only wish that the business was so far wound up as that I might return to the Walks of private life and in retirement enjoy that relaxation and repose which is absolutely necessary for me.

My first wish now is, that the States may be wise; that they may improve the advantages which they have obtained; that they may consider themselves individually, as parts of the great whole; and not by unreasonable jealousies, and ill-founded prejudices, destroy the goodly fabrick we have been Eight years labouring to erect. But without more liberallity of Sentiment and action, I expect but little.

[21] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

Immediately upon the receipt of your Letter of the 31st. Ulto, I transmitted the list of your Slaves to a Gentleman; a worthy active Man, of my acquaintance in N York and requested him to use his endeavors to obtain and forward them to you. All that can be done, I am sure he will do, but I have but little expectation that many will be recovered; several of my own are with the Enemy but I scarce ever bestowed a thought on them; they have so many doors through which they can escape from New York, that scarce any thing but an inclination to return, or voluntarily surrender of themselves will restore many to their former Masters, even supposing every disposition on the part of the Enemy to deliver them. With great truth etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburg, April 30, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency for the observation of Congress a Copy of a Letter which I have written to Sir Guy Carleton in consequence of their resolutions of the 15th. instant. Also a Copy of Sir Guy's reply, agreable to which I expect to meet him at Tappan, on the 5th of May.[22]

The Proceedings and result of this Interview, so far as shall be necessary I shall have the honor to transmit to Congress on my return. I have the honor etc.[23]

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Newburgh, May 1, 1783.

My Dear Duke: It was with pain I received information, from the Chevr De la Luzerne, that the French corps under

[22] The inclosures were copies of Washington's letter to Sir Guy Carleton, Apr. 21, 1783, and Carleton's reply, April 24.

[23] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

your orders was recalled; this event I fear will take you from this Country contrary to my wishes, and what you were polite enough to say, your own inclination before you had visited the Southern states.

No circumstance would contribute more to my satisfaction than to have the pleasure of your company at Mount Vernon and to shew you every attention and respect in your proposed tour. I will still hope for this pleasure; but if circumstances direct otherwise you will carry my warmest wishes with you and though I cannot at this moment assure myself of the practicability of a visit to France, the pleasure of meeting you there would be one of my greatest inducements; and if I come, I shall claim your promise of accompanying me on the tour you marked out.

I depart from this place To morrow for the purpose of having an interview with Sir Guy Carleton on Munday next at Dobbss Ferry to settle matters respecting the evacuation of the Posts and security of american property agreably to the 7th. article of the provisional treaty and a resolve of Congress of the 15th. of last month.

I shall not in this letter bid you more than a temporary adieu because I do not relinquish the hope of your remaining some time on this Continent after the French Troops shall have embarked. I have the honour etc.[24]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, May 1, 1783.

Parole Hallifax. Countersigns Sommerset, Wakefield.

For duty tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Patterson.
B. Qr. Mr. Hampshire Brigde.

[24] From a copy in the writing of Martha Washington.

The Jersey regt. gives the Guards, and the Jersey battalion the Fatigues tomorrow.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolve:

By the United States in Congress assembled the 23d. April 1783.

Resolved, That in the opinion of Congress, the time of the men engaged to serve during the war, does not expire until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace.

That such of the non-commissioned officers and privates soldiers of the above description, as continue in service to that period, shall be allowed their fire arms and accoutriments, as an extra reward for their long and faithful services.

At a General courtmartial held in Philadelphia the 23d. of april by order of the Secretary at War, Major McPherson[25] president, William Forsythe, soldier in the Delaware regt. was tried, for mutiny and disobedience of Captain Jacquets[26] personal orders. The court find him Guilty in breach of the 3d. and 5th. articles of section 2d. of the rules and articles of war, and sentence him to receive one hundred Lashes.

John Willar, Soldier in the pennsylvania Line, was tried For Mutiny and speaking disrespectfully of His Excellency Genl. Washington and Congress, also drinking a health to King George. The Court find him guilty in breach of the 2d. art. of the 2d. Sect. of the Articles of war and sentence him to receive one hundred lashes and be drumned out of the Army with a halter around his neck.

John Witeskay and Charles Bier, soldiers in the pennsylvania Line, were tried and convicted of Desertion, and sentenced each of them to receive one hundred Lashes. But from their former good character, and being young soldiers, the Court beg leave to recommend them for Mercy.

[25] Maj. William Macpherson (McPherson).

[26] Capt. Peter Jaquett (Jacquet), of the Delaware regiment. He served to the close of the war.

The Commander in chief approves the foregoing sentences, but is pleased to pardon Witeskay and Bier, and to remit so much of Willars sentence as relates to the halter.

AFTER ORDERS

The Light companies of the Jersey, the 2d. York, 5th. and 8th. Massachusetts regts. will take post on the Lines. They are to be on the Grand parade at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and put themselves under the orders of Major Fish.

CERTIFICATE FOR THE BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT

Head Quarters of the American Army, May 1, 1783.

To All to whom these presents shall come, sendeth Greeting

Whereas it hath ever been an established maxim in the American Service, that the Road to Glory was open to All, that Honorary Rewards and Distinctions were the greatest Stimuli to virtuous Actions, and that distinguished Merit should not pass unnoticed or unrewarded; and

Whereas a Board of Officers whereof Brigadier General Greaton is President, hath been constituted and appointed for the purpose of investigating the several pretensions of the Candidates for the Badge of Military Merit; and said Board having Reported in the Words following, Viz

That Serjeant Elijah Churchill of the 2d. Regiment of Light Dragoons, in the several Enterprizes against Fort St. George and Fort Slongo on Long Island, in their opinion acted a very conspicuous and singularly meritorious part; that at the Head of each Body of Attack, he not only acquitted himself with great gallantry, firmness and address; but that the Surprize in one instance, and the success of the attack in the other, proceeded in a considerable degree from his Conduct and management;

Now therefore Know Ye, That the aforesaid Serjeant Elijah Churchill, hath fully and truely deserved, and hath been

properly invested with the Honorary Badge of Military Merit, and is authourised and intitled to pass and repass all Guards and Military Posts as fully and amply as any Commissioned Officer whatever; And is Hereby further Recommended to that favorable Notice which a Brave and Faithful Soldier deserves from his Countrymen.[27]

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Newburgh, May 2, 1783.

Sir: A necessary absence from Camp and several unavoidable interruptions have been the occasion of, and must be my apology for with holding the inclosed thoughts on a peace establishment so long.

If they will afford any assistance, or contain any thing satisfactory, I shall think my time and labour well spent. I have the honour.[28]

SENTIMENTS ON A PEACE ESTABLISHMENT[29]

A Peace Establishment for the United States of America may in my opinion be classed under four different heads Vizt:

First. A regular and standing force, for Garrisoning West Point and such other Posts upon our Northern, Western, and Southern Frontiers, as shall be deemed necessary to awe the Indians, protect our Trade, prevent the encroachment of our Neighbours of Canada and the Florida's, and guard us at least from surprizes; Also for security of our Magazines.

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[27] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb and Hodijah Baylies. It is indorsed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.: "granted to Sergeant Churchill 2d Light Dragons to Sergt. Brown, 5th. Connct. to Sergeant Bissil 2d Cont."

[28] From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

[29] Inclosed in the preceding letter to Hamilton, as chairman of the Committee of Congress on the Peace Establishment.

Secondly. A well organized Militia; upon a Plan that will pervade all the States, and introduce similarity in their Establishment Manœuvres, Exercise and Arms.

Thirdly. Establishing Arsenals of all kinds of Military Stores.

Fourthly. Accademies, one or more for the Instruction of the Art Military; particularly those Branches of it which respect Engineering and Artillery, which are highly essential, and the knowledge of which, is most difficult to obtain. Also Manufactories of some kinds of Military Stores.

Upon each of these, and in the order in which they stand, I shall give my sentiments as concisely as I can, and with that freedom which the Committee have authorized.

Altho' a *large* standing Army in time of Peace hath ever been considered dangerous to the liberties of a Country, yet a few Troops, under certain circumstances, are not only safe, but indispensably necessary. Fortunately for us our relative situation requires but few. The same circumstances which so effectually retarded, and in the end conspired to defeat the attempts of Britain to subdue us, will now powerfully tend to render us secure. Our *distance* from the European States in a great degree frees us of apprehension, from their numerous regular forces and the Insults and dangers which are to be dreaded from their Ambition.

But, if our danger from those powers was more imminent, yet we are too poor to maintain a standing Army adequate to our defence, and was our Country more populous and rich, still it could not be done without great oppression of the people. Besides, as soon as we are able to raise funds more than adequate to the discharge of the Debts incurred by the Revolution, it may become a Question worthy of consideration, whether the surplus should not be applied in preparations for building and equipping a Navy, without which, in case of War we could neither protect our Commerce, nor yield that Assistance to each

other, which, on such an extent of Sea-Coast, our mutual Safety would require.

Fortifications on the Sea Board may be considered in two points of view, first as part of the general defence, and next, as securities to Dock Yards, and Arsenals for Ship Building, neither of which shall I take into this plan; because the first would be difficult, if not, under our circumstances, impracticable; at any rate amazingly expensive. The other, because it is a matter out of my line, and to which I am by no means competent, as it requires a consideration of many circumstances, to which I have never paid attention.

The Troops requisite for the Post of West Point, for the Magazines, and for our Northern, Western and Southern Frontiers, ought, in my opinion, to amount to 2631 Officers of all denominations included; besides the Corps of Invalids. If this number should be thought large, I would only observe; that the British Force in Canada is now powerful, and, by report, will be increased; that the frontier is very extensive; that the Tribes of Indians within our Territory are numerous, soured and jealous; that Communications must be established with the exterior Posts; And, that it may be policy and œconomy, to appear respectable in the Eyes of the Indians, at the Commencement of our National Intercourse and Traffic with them. In a word, that it is better to reduce our force hereafter, by degrees, than to have it to increase after some unfortunate disasters may have happened to the Garrisons; discouraging to us, and an inducement to the Enemy to attempt a repetition of them.

Besides these Considerations, we are not to forget, that altho' by the Treaty, half the Waters, and the free Navigation of the Lakes appertain to us, yet, in Case of a rupture with Great Britain we should in all probability, find little benefits from the Communications with our upper Posts, by the Lakes Erie and Ontario; as it is to be presumed, that the Naval superiority

which they now have on those Waters, will be maintained. It follows as a Consequence then, that we should open new or improve the present half explored Communications with Detroit and other Posts on the Lakes, by the Waters of the Susquehannah Potowmack or James River, to the Ohio, from whence, with short Portages several Communications by Water may be opened with Lake Erie. To do which, posts should be established at the most convenient places on the Ohio. This would open several doors for the supply of the Garrisons on the Lakes; and is absolutely necessary for such others as may be tho't advisable to establish upon the Mississippi. The Ohio affording the easiest, as well as the safest Route to the Illinois settlements, and the whole Country below on the Mississippi, quite to our Southern boundary.

To protect the Peltry and Fur Trade, to keep a watch upon our Neighbours, and to prevent their encroaching upon our Territory undiscovered, are all the purposes that can be answered by an extension of our Posts, at this time, beyond Detroit, to the Northward or Westward: but, a strong Post on the Scioto, at the carrying place between it and the River Sandusky, which empties into Lake Erie, mentioned in Hutchins's Description of that Country Page 24, and more plainly pointed out by Evans's Map, is indispensably necessary for the security of the present Settlers, and such as probably, will *immediately* settle within those Limits. And by giving security to the Country and covering its Inhabitants, will enable them to furnish supplies to the Garrisons Westward and Northward of these settlements, upon moderate and easy Terms.

The 2,631 Men beforementioned, I would have considered to all Intents and purposes as Continental Troops; looking up to Congress for their Orders, their pay, and supplies of every kind. The Infantry of which, being 1908 and, composing four Regiments may be thrown into the following disposition.

Establishment and Disposition of four Regts. of Infantry 1908 Men including Officers

Disposition	Officers												Non Comd. Officers						Rank & File	Total
	Commissioned						Staff													
	Colonel	Lt. Colonel	Major	Captains	Lieuts.	Ensigns	Chaplain	Adjutant	P Master	Qr. Master	Surgeon	Mate	Sergt. Major	Qr. Mr. Sergt.	Drum Major	Fife Major	Sergeants	Drum & fifes		
Penobscot or St Croix or both		1		3	3	3						1	1	1			9	6	150	
North End of Lake Champlain	1		1	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	12	8	200	
Connecticut River near the 45th degree				1		1											2	1	30	
Ticonderoga					1												1	1	20	
Establishment & Strength	1	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	16	400	477
Niagara	1		1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	9	6	150	
Oswego				1		1											2	1	30	
Fort Erie No. end of Lake Erie					1												1	1	20	
Detroit		1		3	3	3						1	1	1			9	6	150	
Streights between Lakes Huron & Superior				1	1	1											3	2	50	
Establishment & Strength	1	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	16	400	477

Fort Pitt				1		1											2	1	30	
Mouth of the Scioto					1												1	1	20	
Portage between Scioto & Sandusky	1		1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	9	6	150	
Mouth of Kentucky or the Rapids				1		1											2	1	30	
Mouth of the Ohio or near it					1												1	1	20	
Height at the mouth of the River Illinois		1		3	3	3						1	1	1			9	6	150	
Establishment & Strength	1	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	16	400	477
To be disposed, as those who are best acquainted with the Frontiers of the Carolinas & Georgia may direct.	1	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	16	400	477
Establishment & Strength of 4 Regts	4	4	4	32	32	32	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	96	64	1600	1908

Not having that *particular* knowledge of the situation of the Southern and Western Boundaries of the Carolinas and Georgia, which is necessary to decide on the Posts to be established in that District, the allotment of only one Regiment thereto, may be judged inadequate; should that be the case, a greater force may be established and a sufficient allowance made them.

The above establishment differs from our present one, in the following instances Vizt: The exclusion of the light Company and reducing a sergeant and 18 Privates from each of the Battalion Companies, and giving a Chaplain to each Regiment instead of a Brigade. If it should be asked why the Reduction of Non Commisd. Officers and Privates is made, while the Commissioned Officers remain the same? It may be answered, that the number of Men which compose the Infantry, will be sufficient for my Calculation, and that the situation of our Frontiers renders it convenient to divide them into so many Corps as have been mentioned, for the ease and propriety of Command. I may also say, that in my Opinion, the number of our Commissioned Officers, has always been disproportionate to the Men. And that in the detached State in which these Regiments must be employed, they cannot consistently with the good of Service be reduced.

It may also be observed, that in case of War and a necessity of assembling their Regiments in the Field, nothing more will be necessary, than to recruit 18 Men to each Compy. and give the Regiment its flank Company. Or if we should have occasion to add strength to the Garrisons, or increase the number of our Posts, we may augment 900 Men including Serjeants, without requiring more than the Officers of 4 Companies, or exceeding our present Establishment. In short, it will give us a Number of Officers well skilled in the Theory and Art of War, who will be ready on any occasion, to mix and diffuse

their knowledge of Discipline to other Corps, without that lapse of Time, which, without such Provision, would be necessary to bring intire new Corps acquainted with the principles of it.

Besides the 4 Regiments of Infantry, one of Artillery will be indispensably necessary. The Invalid Corps should also be retained. Motives of humanity, Policy and justice will all combine to prevent their being disbanded. The numbers of the last will, from the nature of their composition, be fluctuating and uncertain. The establishment of the former will be as follows, Vizt:

Establishment for one Regiment of Artillery.

Officers.																							
Commissioned							Staff						Non Commissioned										
Colonel	Lieut. Colonel	Major	Captains	Captn. Lieuts.	1st Lieutenants	2d. Lieutenants	Chaplain	Adjutant	Pay Mr.	Qur. Master	Surgeon	Mate	Serjt. Major	Qur. M. Serjeant	Drum Major	Fife Major	Serjeants	Corporals	Bombadiers	Gunners	Drums & fifes	Matrosses	Total
1	1	1	10	10	10	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	60	60	60	60	20	390	723

To this Regiment of Artillery should be annexed 50 or 60 Artificers, of the various kinds which will be necessary, who may be distributed in equal numbers into the different Companies and being part of the Regiment, will be under the direction and Command of the Commanding Officer, to be disposed into different services as Circumstances shall require. By thus blending Artificers with Artillery, the expence of Additional Officers will be saved; and they will Answer all the

purposes which are to be expected from them, as well as if formed into a distinct Corps.

The Regiment of Artillery, with the Artificers, will furnish all the Posts in which Artillery is placed, in proportionate numbers to the Strength and importance of them. The residue, with the Corps of Invalids, will furnish Guards for the Magazines, and Garrison West Point. The importance of this last mentioned Post, is so great, as justly to have been considered, the key of America; It has been so pre-eminently advantageous to the defence of the United States, and is still so necessary in that view, as well as for the preservation of the Union, that the loss of it might be productive of the most ruinous Consequences. A Naval superiority at Sea and on Lake Champlain, connected by a Chain of Posts on the Hudson River, would effect an entire separation of the States on each side, and render it difficult, if not impracticable for them to co-operate.

Altho' the total of the Troops herein enumerated does not amount to a large number, yet when we consider their detached situation, and the extent of Country they are spread over: the variety of objects that are to be attended to, and the close inspection that will be necessary to prevent abuses or to correct them before they become habitual; not less than two General Officers in my opinion will be competent to the Duties to be required of them. They will take their Instructions from the Secretary at War, or Person acting at the Head of the Military Department, who will also assign them their respective and distinct Districts. Each should twice a Year visit the Posts of his particular District, and notice the Condition they are in, Inspect the Troops, their discipline and Police, Examine into their Wants, and see that strict justice is rendered them and to the Public, they should also direct the Colonels, at what intermediate Times they shall perform the like duties at the Posts

occupied by the Detachments of their respective Regiments. The visiting General ought frequently, if not always, to be accompanied by a Skillful Engineer, who should point out such alterations and improvements as he may think necessary from time to time, for the defence of any of the Posts; which, if approved by the General, should be ordered to be carried into execution.

Each Colonel should be responsible for the Administration of his Regiment; and when present, being Commanding Officer of any Post, which is occupied by a Detachment from his Regt., he may give such directions as he may think proper, not inconsistent with the Orders of his Superior Officer, under whose general superintendence the Troops are. He will carefully exact Monthly Returns from all detachments of his Regiment; and be prepared to make a faithful report of all occurrences, when called upon by the General Officer in whose Department he may be placed and whose instructions he is at all times to receive and obey. These Returns and Reports, drawn into a General one, are to be transmitted to the Secretary at War, by the visiting General, with the detail of his own proceedings, remarks and Orders.

The three Years Men now in service will furnish the proposed Establishment, and from these, it is presumed, the Corps must in the first Instance be composed. But as the pay of an American Soldier is much greater than any other we are acquainted with; and as there can be little doubt of our being able to obtain them in time of Peace, upon as good Terms as other Nations, I would suggest the propriety of inlisting those who may come after the present three years Men, upon Terms of similarity with those of the British, or any other the most liberal Nations.

When the Soldiers for the War have frolicked a while among their friends, and find they must have recourse to hard labour for a livelyhood, I am persuaded numbers of them will reinlist upon almost any Terms. Whatever may be adopted with respect to Pay, Clothing and Emoluments, they should be clearly and unequivocally expressed and promulgated, that there may be no deception or mistake. Discontent, Desertion and frequently Mutiny, are the natural consequences of these; and it is not more difficult to know how to punish, than to prevent these inconveniencies, when it is known, that there has been delusion on the part of the Recruiting Officer, or a breach of Compact on the part of the public. The pay of the Battalion Officer's is full low, but those of the Chaplain, Surgeon and Mate are too high; and a proper difference should be made between the Non-Commissioned Officers (serjeants particularly) and Privates, to give them that pride and consequence which is necessary to Command.

At, or before the Time of discharging the Soldiers for the War, the Officers of the Army may signify their wishes either to retire, upon the Half pay, or to continue in the service; from among those who make the latter choice, the number wanted for a Peace Establishment may be selected; and it were to be wished, that they might be so blended together from the Several Lines, as to remove, as much as possible, all Ideas of State distinctions.

No Forage should be allowed in time of Peace to Troops in Garrison, nor in any circumstances, but when actually on a March.

Soldiers should not be inlisted for *less* than three Years, to commence from the date of their attestations; and the more difference there is in the commencement of their terms of Service,

the better; this Circumstance will be the means of avoiding the danger and inconvenience of entrusting any important Posts to raw Recruits unacquainted with service.

Rum should compose no part of a Soldier's Ration; but Vinegar in large quantities should be issued. Flour or Bread, and a stipulated quantity of the different kinds of fresh or Salted Meat, with Salt, when the former is Issued, is all that should be contracted for.

Vegetables they can, and ought to be compelled to raise. If spruce, or any other kind of small Beer, could be provided, it ought to be given gratis, but not made part of the Compact with them. It might be provided also, that they should receive one or two days fish in a Week, when to be had; this would be a saving to the public, (the Lakes and most of the Waters of the Ohio and Mississippi abounding with Fish) and would be no disservice to the Soldier.

A proper recruiting fund should be established; from which the Regiment may always be kept complete.

The Garrisons should be changed as often as it can be done with convenience; long continuance in the same place is injurious. Acquaintances are made, Connections formed, and habits acquired, which often prove very detrimental to the service. By this means, public duty is made to yield to interested pursuits, and real abuses are the Result. To avoid these Evils, I would propose, that there should be a change made in every Regiment once a Year, and one Regiment with another every two Years.

An Ordinance for the service of Troops in Garrison, should be annexed to our present Regulations for the order and discipline of the Army. The latter should be revised, corrected and enlarged so as to form a Basis of Discipline under all

circumstances for Continental Troops, and, as far as they will apply, to the Militia also: that one uniform system may pervade all the States.

As a peace establishment may be considered as a change in, if not the Commencement of our Military system, it will be the proper time, to introduce new and beneficial regulations, and to expunge all customs, which from experience have been found unproductive of general good. Among the latter I would ask, if promotion by Seniority is not one? That it is a good general rule admits of no doubt, but that it should be an invariable one, is in my opinion wrong. It cools, if it does not destroy, the incentives to Military Pride and Heroic Actions. On the one hand, the sluggard, who keeps within the verge of his duty, has nothing to fear. On the other hand, the enterprising Spirit has nothing to expect. Whereas, if promotion was the *sure* reward of Merit, *all* would contend for Rank and the service would be benefited by their Struggles for Promotion. In establishing a mode by which this is to be done, and from which nothing is to be expected, or apprehended, either from favour or prejudice, lies the difficulty. Perhaps, reserving to Congress the right inherent in Sovereignties, of making all Promotions. A Board of superior Officers, appointed to receive and examine the claims to promotions out of common course, of any Officer, whether founded on particular merit, or extra service, and to report their opinion thereon to Congress; might prove a likely means of doing justice. It would certainly give a Spur to Emulation, without endangering the rights, or just pretentions of the Officers.

Before I close my observations under this head, of a regular force, and the Establishment of Posts, it is necessary for me to observe, that, in fixing a Post at the North End of Lake Champlain I had three things in view. The Absolute Command of

the entrance into the Lake from Canada. A cover to the Settlements on the New Hampshire Grants and the prevention of any illicit intercourse thro' that Channel. But, if it is known, or should be found, that the 45th Degree crosses the Lake South of any spot which will command the entrance into it, the primary object fails; And it then becomes a question whether any place beyond Ticonderoga or Crown Point is eligible.

Altho' it may be somewhat foreign to, and yet not altogether unconnected with the present subject, I must beg leave, from the importance of the object, as it appears to my mind, and for the advantages which I think would result from it to the United States, to hint, the propriety of Congress taking some early steps, by a liberal treatment, to gain the affections of the French settlements of Detroit, those of the Illinois and other back Countries. Such a measure would not only hold out great encouragement to the Inhabitants already on those lands, who will doubtless make very useful and valuable subjects of the United States; but would probably make deep and conciliatory impressions on their friends in the British settlements, and prove a means of drawing thither great numbers of Canadian Emigrants, who, under proper Regulations and establishments of Civil Government, would make a hardy and industruous race of Settlers on that Frontier; and who, by forming a barrier against the Indians, would give great security to the Infant settlement, which, soon after the close of the War, will probably be forming in the back Country.

I come next in the order I have prescribed myself, to treat of the Arrangements necessary for placing the Militia of the Continent on a respectable footing for the defence of the Empire and in speaking of this great Bulwark of our Liberties and independence, I shall claim the indulgence of suggesting whatever general observations may occur from experience and reflection

with the greater freedom, from a conviction of the importance of the subject; being persuaded, that the immediate safety and future tranquility of this extensive Continent depend in a great measure upon the peace Establishment now in contemplation; and being convinced at the same time, that the only probable means of preventing insult or hostility for any length of time and from being exempted from the consequent calamities of War, is to put the National Militia in such a condition as that they may appear truly respectable in the Eyes of our Friends and formidable to those who would otherwise become our enemies.

Were it not totally unnecessary and superfluous to adduce arguments to prove what is conceded on all hands the Policy and expediency of resting the protection of the Country on a respectable and well established Militia, we might not only shew the propriety of the measure from our peculiar local situation, but we might have recourse to the Histories of Greece and Rome in their most virtuous and Patriotic ages to demonstrate the Utility of such Establishments. Then passing by the Mercinary Armies, which have at one time or another subverted the liberties of allmost all the Countries they have been raised to defend, we might see, with admiration, the Freedom and Independence of Switzerland supported for Centuries, in the midst of powerful and jealous neighbours, by means of a hardy and well organized Militia. We might also derive useful lessons of a similar kind from other Nations of Europe, but I believe it will be found, the *People of this Continent* are too well acquainted with the Merits of the subject to require information or example. I shall therefore proceed to point out some general outlines of their duty, and conclude this head with a few particular observations on the regulations which I conceive

ought to be immediately adopted by the States at the instance and recommendation of Congress.

It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defence of it, and consequently that the Citizens of America (with a few legal and official exceptions) from 18 to 50 Years of Age should be borne on the Militia Rolls, provided with uniform Arms, and so far accustomed to the use of them, that the Total strength of the Country might be called forth at a Short Notice on any very interesting Emergency, for these purposes they ought to be duly organized into Commands of the same formation; (it is not of *very* great importance, whether the Regiments are large or small, provided a sameness prevails in the strength and composition of them and I do not know that a better establishment, than that under which the Continental Troops now are, can be adopted. They ought to be regularly Mustered and trained, and to have their Arms and Accoutrements inspected at certain appointed times, not less than once or twice in the course of every [year] but as it is obvious, amongst such a Multitude of People (who may indeed be useful for temporary service) there must be a great number, who from domestic Circumstances, bodily defects, natural awkwardness or disinclination, can never acquire the habits of Soldiers; but on the contrary will injure the appearance of any body of Troops to which they are attached, and as there are a sufficient proportion of able bodied young Men, between the Age of 18 and 25, who, from a natural fondness for Military parade (which passion is almost ever prevalent at that period of life) might easily be enlisted or drafted to form a Corps in every State, capable of resisting any

sudden impression which might be attempted by a foreign Enemy, while the remainder of the National forces would have time to Assemble and make preparations for the Field. I would wish therefore, that the former, being considered as a *denier resort,* reserved for some great occasion, a judicious system might be adopted for forming and placing the latter on the best possible Establishment. And that while the Men of this description shall be viewed as the Van and flower of the American Forces, ever ready for Action and zealous to be employed whenever it may become necessary in the service of their Country; they should meet with such exemptions, privileges or distinctions, as might tend to keep alive a true Military pride, a nice sense of honour, and a patriotic regard for the public. Such sentiments, indeed, ought to be instilled into our Youth, with their earliest years, to be cherished and inculcated as frequently and forcibly as possible.

It is not for me to decide positively, whether it will be ultimately most interesting to the happiness and safety of the United States, to form this Class of Soldiers into a kind of Continental Militia, selecting every 10th 15th or 20th. Man from the Rolls of each State for the purpose; Organizing, Officering and Commissioning those Corps upon the same principle as is now practiced in the Continental Army. Whether it will be best to comprehend in this body, all the Men fit for service between some given Age and no others, for example between 18 and 25 or some similar description, or whether it will be preferable in every Regiment of the proposed Establishment to have one additional Company inlisted or drafted from the best Men for 3, 5, or 7 years and distinguished by the name of the additional or light Infantry Company, always to be kept complete. These Companies might then be drawn together occasionally and formed into particular Battalions or Regiments

under Field Officers appointed for that Service. One or other of these plans I think will be found indispensably necessary, if we are in earnest to have an efficient force ready for Action at a moments Warning. And I cannot conceal my private sentiment, that the formation of additional, or light Companies will be most consistent with the genius of our Countrymen and perhaps in their opinion most consonant to the spirit of our Constitution.

I shall not contend for names or forms, it will be altogether essential, and it will be sufficient that perfect Uniformity should be established throughout the Continent, and pervade, as far as possible, every Corps, whether of standing Troops or Militia, and of whatever denomination they may be. To avoid the confusion of a contrary practice, and to produce the happy consequences which will attend a uniform system of Service, in case Troops from the different parts of the Continent shall ever be brought to Act together again, I would beg leave to propose, that Congress should employ some able hand, to digest a Code of Military Rules and regulations, calculated immediately for the Militia and other Troops of the United States; And as it should seem the present system, by being a little simplified, altered, and improved, might be very well adopted to the purpose; I would take the liberty of recommending, that measures should be immediately taken for the accomplishment of this interesting business, and that an Inspector General should be appointed to superintend the execution of the proposed regulations in the several States.

Congress having fixed upon a proper plan to be established, having caused the Regulations to be compiled, having approved, Printed and distributed them to every General Field Officer, Captain and Adjutant of Militia, will doubtless have taken care, that whenever the system shall be adopted by the States

the encouragement on the one hand, and the fines and penalties on the other will occasion an universal and punctual compliance therewith.

Before I close my remarks on the establishment of our National Militia, which is to be the future guardian of those rights and that Independence, which have been maintain'd so gloriously, by the fortitude and perseverance of our Countrymen, I shall descend a little more minutely to the interior arrangements, and sum up what I have to say on this head with the following Positions.

1st. That it appears to me extremely necessary there should be an Adjutant General appointed in each State, with such Assistants as may be necessary for communicating the Orders of the Commander in Chief of the State, making the details, collecting the Returns and performing every other duty incident to that Office. A duplicate of the Annual Returns should always be lodged in the War Office by the 25th of Decr. in every year, for the information of Congress; with any other reports that may be judged expedient. The Adjutant Generals and Assistants to be considered as the deputies of the Inspector General, and to assist him in carrying the system of Discipline into effect.

2d. That every Militia Officer should make himself acquainted with the plan of Discipline, within a limited time, or forfeit his Commission, for it is in vain to expect the improvement of the Men, while the Officers remain ignorant, which many of them will do, unless Government will make and enforce such a Regulation.

3dly. That the formation of the Troops ought to be perfectly simple and entirely uniform, for example each Regiment should be composed of two Battalions, each Battalion to consist of 4 Companies and each Company as at present of 1 Captain,

1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 5 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Music, 65 Privates.

Two Battalions should form a Regiment four Regts a Brigade and two Brigades a Division. This might be the general formation; but as I before observed, I conceive it will be eligible to select from the district forming a Regiment, the flower of the young Men to compose an additional or light Company to every Regiment, for the purposes before specified, which undoubtedly ought to be the case unless something like a Continental Militia shall be instituted. To each Division two Troops of Cavalry and two Companies of Artillery might also be annexed, but no Independent or Volunteer Companies foreign to the Establishment should be tolerated.

4thly. It is also indispensable that such a proportion of the Militia (under whatever discription they are comprehended) as are always to be held in readiness for service, nearly in the same manner the Minute Men formerly were, should be excercised at least from 12 to 25 days in a year, part of the time in Company, part in Battalion and part in Brigade, in the latter case, by forming a Camp, their Discipline would be greatly promoted, and their Ideas raised, as near as possible, to real service; Twenty five days might be divided thus, ten days for training in squads, half Companies and Companies, ten in Battalion and five in Brigade.

5thly. While in the Field or on actual duty, there should not only be a Compensation for the time thus spent, but a full allowance of Provisions Straw, Camp Equipage &c; it is also of so great consequence that there should be, a perfect similarity in the Arms and Accoutrements, that they ought to be furnished, in the first instance by the public, if they cannot be obtained in any other way, some kind of Regimentals or Uniform Clothing (however cheap or course they may be) are also

highly requisite and should be provided for such occasions. Nor is it unimportant that every Article should be stamped with the appearance of regularity; and especially that all the Articles of public property should be numbered, marked or branded with the name of the Regiment or Corps that they may be properly accounted for.

6thly. In addition to the Continental Arsenals, which will be treated of under the next head. Every State ought to Establish Magazines of its own, containing Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunitions, all kinds of Camp Equipage and Warlike Stores, and from which the Militia or any part of them should be supplied whenever they are call'd into the Field.

7thly. It is likewise much to be wished, that it might be made agreeable to Officers who have served in the Army, to accept Commands in the Militia; that they might be appointed to them so far as can be done without creating uneasiness and jealousy, and that the principle Characters in the Community would give a countenance to Military improvements, by being present at public reviews and Exhibitions, and by bringing into estimation amongst their fellow Citizens, those who appear fond of cultivating Military knowledge and who excel in the Exercise of Arms. By giving such a tone to our Establishment; by making it universally reputable to bear Arms and disgraceful to decline having a share in the performance of Military duties; in fine, by keeping up in Peace "a well regulated, and disciplined Militia," we shall take the fairest and best method to preserve, for a long time to come, the happiness, dignity and Independence of our Country.

With regard to the third Head in Contemplation, to wit. the "Establishment of Arsenals of all kinds of Military Stores." I will only observe, that having some time since seen a plan of

the Secretary of War, which went fully into the discussion of this branch of Arrangement, and appeared (as well as I can, at this time recollect) to be in general perfectly well founded, little more need be said on the subject, especially as I have been given to understand the plan has been lately considerably improved and laid before Congress for their approbation; and indeed there is only one or two points in which I could wish to suggest any Alteration.

According to my recollection, five grand Magazines are proposed by the Secretary at War, one of which to be fixed at West Point. Now, as West Point is considered not only by our selves, but by all who have the least knowledge of the Country, as a post of the greatest importance, as it may in time of Peace, from its situation on the Water be somewhat obnoxious to surprise or *Coup de Main* and as it would doubtless be a first object with any Nation which might commence a War against the United States, to seize that Post and occupy or destroy the Stores, it appears to me, that we ought particularly to guard against such an event, so far as may be practicable, and to remove some part of the Allurements to enterprise, by establishing the grand Arsenals in the Interior part of the Country, leaving only to West Point an adequate supply for its defence in almost any extremity.[30]

I take the liberty also to submit to the consideration of the Committee, whether, instead of five great Arsenals, it would not be less expensive and equally convenient and advantageous to fix three general Deposits, one for the Southern, one for the Middle and one for the Eastern States, including New York, in each of which there might be deposited, Arms, Ammunition,

[30] West Point had been designated as the main depository of all the military stores of the Army after the signing of the preliminary treaty of peace.

Field Artillery, and Camp Equipage for thirty thousand Men, Also one hundred heavy Cannon and Mortars, and all the Apparatus of a Seige, with a sufficiency of Ammunition.

Under the fourth General Division of the subject, it was proposed to consider the Establishment of Military Academies and Manufacturies, as the means of preserving that knowledge and being possessed of those Warlike Stores, which are essential to the support of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States. But as the Baron Steuben has thrown together his Ideas very largely on these Articles, which he had communicated to me previous to their being sent to the secretary at War, and which being now lodged at the War Office, I imagine have also been submitted to the inspection of the Committee, I shall therefore have the less occasion for entering into the detail, and may, without impropriety, be the more concise in my own observations.

That an Institution calculated to keep alive and diffuse the knowledge of the Military Art would be highly expedient, and that some kinds of Military Manufactories and Elaboratories may and ought to be established, will not admit a doubt; but how far we are able at this time to go into great and expensive Arrangements and whether the greater part of the Military Apparatus and Stores which will be wanted can be imported or Manufactured, in the cheapest and best manner: I leave those to whom the observations are to be submitted, to determine, as being more competent, to the decision than I can pretend to be. I must however mention some things, which I think cannot be dispensed with under the present or any other circumstances; Until a more perfect system of Education can be adopted, I would propose that Provision should be made at some Post or Posts where the principle Engineers and Artillerists shall be stationed, for instructing a certain number of young Gentlemen in the Theory of the Art of War, particularly

in all those branches of service which belong to the Artillery and Engineering Departments. Which, from the affinity they bear to each other, and the advantages which I think would result from the measure, I would have blended together; And as this species of knowledge will render them much more accomplished and capable of performing the duties of Officers, even in the Infantry or any other Corps whatsoever, I conceive that appointments to vacancies in the Established Regiments, ought to be made from the candidates who shall have completed their course of Military Studies and Exercises. As it does in an essential manner qualify them for the duties of Garrisons, which will be the principal, if not only service in which our Troops can be employed in time of Peace and besides the Regiments of Infantry by this means will become in time a nursery from whence a number of Officers for Artillery and Engineering may be drawn on any great or sudden occasion.

Of so great importance is it to preserve the knowledge which has been acquired thro' the various Stages of a long and arduous service, that I cannot conclude without repeating the necessity of the proposed Institution, unless we intend to let the Science become extinct, and to depend entirely upon the Foreigners for their friendly aid, if ever we should again be involved in Hostility. For it must be understood, that a Corps of able Engineers and expert Artillerists cannot be raised in a day, nor made such by any exertions, in the same time, which it would take to form an excellent body of Infantry from a well regulated Militia.

And as to Manufactories and Elaboratories it is my opinion that if we should not be able to go largely into the business at present, we should nevertheless have a reference to such establishments hereafter, and in the means time that we ought to have such works carried on, wherever our principal Arsenals may be fixed, as will not only be sufficient to repair and keep in

good order the Arms, Artillery, Stores &c of the Post, but shall also extend to Founderies and some other essential matters.

Thus have I given my sentiments without reserve on the four different heads into which the subject seemed naturally to divide itself, as amply as my numerous avocations and various duties would permit. Happy shall I be, if any thing I have suggested may be found of use in forming an Establishment which will maintain the lasting Peace, Happiness and Independence of the United States.[31]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Friday, May 2, 1783.

Parole Rochambeau. Countersigns Chattelux, D.Estang.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Qr. Mr. 1. Massa. Brigade.

The 1st. York regt. gives the Guards and the 2d. regt. of that Line the fatigues tomorrow.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 3, 1783.

Sir: I take the Liberty to mention to your Excellency, that, in attending to the Resolution of Congress of the 15th. of April,[32]

[31] From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress. The word in brackets is in the writing of Washington, who had, previous to this date, requested sentiments on a peace establishment from various officers. Replies were received from Steuben, April 15 and April 21; Gouvion, April 16; Huntington, April 16; Knox, April 17; Heath, April 17; Gov. George Clinton, April 17; Pickering, April 22; Rufus Putnam, April 25; and Edward Hand, undated. All of these replies are in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] By the resolve of April 15 the Commander in Chief was instructed to make arrangements with the British commander for receiving possession of the posts held by the British troops in the United States; "and for obtaining the delivery of all negroes and other property of the inhabitants of the United States in the possession of the British forces, or any subject of, or adherents to his said Brittannic Majesty; and that the Secretary at War, in conjunction with the Commander in Chief, take proper arrangements for setting at liberty all land prisoners."

respecting the posts in the United States occupied by the British Troops, I find it necessary to apply for some more particular Explanation of the Intentions of Congress than is there expressed.

Taking it for granted that the Northern and Western Posts are included within the Ideas of Congress, as well as N York, Arrangements for receiving possession of those posts, are to be made with General Haldimand, who commands in the District of Canada. As the Communication with him is distant and will take much Time, previous to commencing my Correspondence, it will be requisite that I should be as fully instructed, as circumstances will admit, of the Intentions of Congress respecting those frontier Posts, particularly what footing they are to be placed upon, and what Number of Men will be sent to maintain them, upon the Peace Establishment. Congress will also be impressed with the necessity of adopting the earliest measures possible, for procuring the men for Garrisoning those Posts. Whether this shall be effected by detaching the *Three* Years men of the present Army, or furnishing them in some other Manner, will be also to determine.

The Posts should certainly be occupied by United States Troops, the Moment they are evacuated by the British. Should this be neglected, I have my fears, that they might be burned or destroyed by the Indians, or some other evil minded persons, whose disaffection to the Government of the United States, may lead them to such Enormities.

Arrangements for Transporting the necessary Artillery, Stores, Ammunition and Provisions, will require Time, and need immediate Attention. The Season for doing this Work is now on Hand, and, if suffered to pass off, it will be exceeding difficult, [if not impracticable], to effect their Transportation, particularly through the small Water Communications,

which, in the present season will be found very convenient; but which, the Summer Heats will render so low, as to become almost impassable.

Persuaded that Congress will view these Objects in the same important Light that I do, I promise myself that I shall be favoured with their Instructions at the earliest Moment possible. With great Respect etc.[33]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, May 3, 1783.

Parole Philadelphia. Countersigns Chester, Trentown.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigade.

The 1st. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the Hampshire regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, May 4, 1783.

Parole Boston. Countersigns Hartford, Newport.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brig'de.

The 4th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 7th. the Fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 5, 1783.

Parole Baltimore. Countersigns Lancaster, Providence.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Patterson. / B. Q. M. Jersey Brigade.

[33] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington.

The 3d Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 6th. the Fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, May 6, 1783.

Parole Williamsburgh. Countersigns Amboy, Dover.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Q. Mr. York brigade.

The 8th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 2d. the fatigues tomorrow.

*To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Tappan, May 6, 1783.

My dear Sir: A few days ago I wrote to you from Newburgh; and informed you (if I mistake not) of the meeting I was to hold with Sir Guy Carleton consequent of the resolve of Congress directing me to make arrangements with him for delivery of the Posts, Negros and other property belonging to the Citizens of the United States.

This meeting I have had; but the Indisposition of Genl. Carleton has taken him back to New York this Morning before the business could be brought to a close: I have discovered enough however, in the course of the conversation which was held, to convince me that the Slaves which have absconded from their Masters will never be restored to them. Vast numbers of them are already gone to Nova Scotia, and the Construction which he (Sir Guy) puts upon the 7th. article of the provisional treaty differs very widely from ours; but as I have given him my Sentiments in writing and have not yet received his in that way I cannot be more explicit at this time on this Subject. I could not however, altho' I am hurried, and upon

the point of returning to Newburgh forbear giving you this concise acct. of my interview and the little good which I think is to be expected from the aforesaid article respecting the Negros. I am etc.

P. S. I have recd. you Letter of the 18th. and mean this (at least for the present) as an answer to it.

SUBSTANCE OF A CONFERENCE BETWEEN GENERAL WASHINGTON AND SIR GUY CARLETON

Orange Town, May 6, 1783.

General Washington opened the Conference by observing that he heretofore had transmitted to Sir Guy Carleton the Resolutions of Congress of the 15th. Ulto. that he conceived a personal Conference would be the most speedy and satisfactory Mode of discussing and settling the Business and that therefore he had requested the Interview. That the Resolutions of Congress related to three distinct Matters namely the setting at Liberty the Prisoners, the receiving Possession of the Posts occupied by the British Troops and the obtaining the delivery of all negroes and other Property of the Inhabitants of these States in the possession of the Forces or Subjects of or adherents to his Britannic Majesty. That with respect to the Liberation of the Prisoners, he had as far as the Business rested with him, put in Train by meeting and conferring with the Secretary at War and concerting with that Officer the proper Measures for collecting the Prisoners and forwarding them to New York and that it was to be optional with Sir Guy Carleton whether the Prisoners should march by Land or whether he would send Transports to convey them by Sea and that the Secretary at War was to communicate with Sir Guy Carleton on the subject and obtain his Determination and with respect to the other two

Matters which were the Objects of the Resolution General Washington requested the Sentiments of Sir Guy Carleton. Sir Guy Carleton then observed that his Expectations of a Peace had been such as that he had anticipated the Event by very early commencing his Preparations to withdraw the British Troops from this Country and that every Preparation which his Situation and Circumstances would permit was still continued, that an additional Number of Transports and which were expected were necessary to remove the Troops and Stores, and as it was impossible to ascertain the Time when these Transports would arrive their Passages depending on the Casualties of the Seas he was therefore unable to fix a determinate Period within which the British forces would be withdrawn from the City of New York, but that it was his Desire to exceed even our own Wishes in this respect and that he was using every Means in his Power to effect with all possible Dispatch an Evacuation of that and every other Post within the United States occupied by the British Troops and under his Direction, that he considered as included in the Preparations for the final Departure of the British Troops the previously sending off those Persons who supposed that from the part they had taken in the present War it would be most eligible for them to leave this Country and that upwards of 6.000 Persons of this Character had embarked and sailed and that in this Embarkation a Number of Negroes were comprised. General Washington thereupon expressed his Surprize that after what appeared to him an express Stipulation to the Contrary in the Treaty Negroes the Property of the Inhabitants of these States should be sent off; to which Sir Guy Carleton replied that he wished to be considered as giving no Construction to the Treaty that by *Property* in the Treaty might only be intended Property *at the time* the Negroes were sent off, that there was a difference

in the Mode of Expression in the Treaty Archives Papers &c. were to be *restored,* Negroes and other Property were only not to be destroyed or *carried away* but he principally insisted that he conceived it could not have been the intention of the British Government by the Treaty of Peace to reduce themselves to the necessity of violating their Faith to the Negroes who came into the British Lines under the Proclamation of his Predecessors in Command, that he forbore to express his Sentiments on the Propriety of these Proclamations but that delivering up the Negroes to their former Masters would be delivering them up some possibly to Execution and others to severe Punishment which in his Opinion would be a dishonorable Violation of the public Faith pledged to the Negroes in the Proclamations that if the sending off the Negroes should hereafter be declared an Infraction of the Treaty, Compensation must be made by the Crown of Great Britain to the Owners, that he had taken Measures to provide for this by directing a Register to be kept of all the Negroes who were sent off specifying the Name Age and Occupation of the Slave and the Name and Place of Residence of his former Master.

General Washington again observed that he concieved this Conduct on the part of Sir Guy Carleton a Departure both from the Letter and Spirit of the Articles of Peace and particularly mentioned a Difficulty that would arise in compensating the Proprietors of Negroes admitting this Infraction of the Treaty could be satisfied by such compensation as Sir Guy Carleton had alluded to, as it was impossible to ascertain the Value of the Slaves from any Fact or Circumstance which may appear in the Register, the value of a Slave consisting chiefly in his Industry and Sobriety and General Washington further mentioned a Difficulty which would attend identifying the Slave supposing him to have changed his own Name or to have

given in a wrong Name of his former Master. In answer to which Sir Guy Carleton said that as the Negro was free and secured against his Master he could have no Inducement to conceal either his own true Name or that of his Master. Sir Guy Carleton then observed that he was not by the Treaty held to deliver up any Property but was only restricted from carrying it away and therefore admitting the Interpretation of the Treaty as given by Genl. Washington to be just he was notwithstanding pursuing a Measure which would operate most for the Security of Proprietors for if the Negroes were left to themselves without Care or Control from him Numbers of them would very probably go off and not return to the parts of the Country they came from, or clandestinely get on board the Transports in Manner which it would not be in his Power to prevent in either of which Cases and inevitable Loss would ensue to the Proprietors but as the Business was now conducted they had at least a Chance for Compensation; and concluded the Conversation on this Subject by saying that he imagined that the Mode of compensating as well as the Accounts and other Points with respect to which there was no express Provision made by the Treaty must be adjudged by Commissioners to be hereafter appointed by the two Nations.

The Subject of with-drawing the British Troops from the Territories of the United States was again resumed and Sir Guy Carleton declared his Willingness at a short day to be agreed on between him and General Washington to evacuate his Posts in West Chester County and to issue his Orders that the British Troops should not on any Pretence pass the River, which separates that County from the Island of New York but with respect to a Relinquishment of any part of Long Island he was apprehensive it would be attended with Difficulties and Inconveniences and, particularly he was fearful it would tend to

favor Desertions from the British Army and therefore he would give no determinate Answer, but he was disposed immediately to abandon Penobscot if General Washington chose it, tho' he said that would necessarily retard the Evacuation of New York as there was not a competent Number of Transports to convey the Troops and Stores from both Places at the same time.

The Conference lasted some Hours but as much passed which both General Washington and Sir Guy Carleton expressed their Wishes might be considered as desultory Conversation it is not recapitulated in the above Narrative which contains only the Substance of the Conference as far as it related to the Points intended to be discussed and settled at the Interview.

We having been present at the Conference do certify the above to be true. GEO: CLINTON. JNO: MORIN SCOTT. EGBT. BENSON. JONA. TRUMBULL JUNR.[34]

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Tappan, May 6, 1783.

Dear Lund: By the last Post I informed you of my intended meeting with Sir Guy Carleton for settling, among other things, a plan for restoring the Negros and other property belonging to the Citizens of the United States. This meeting I have held; and tho it has been interrupted by the indisposition of Sir Guy, which has, this morning, carried him back to New York; yet, I have collected enough to convince me, that the owners of Slaves have very little chance to recover them. Sir Guy puts a very different construction upon the 7th. article to what we do, and such an one, as I have before observed, as leaves little prospect of recovering the Negros, if they do the value of them,

[34] In the writing of Egbert Benson and signed also by him and the others.

however, as the business which occasioned the meeting is not definitive; and I am to receive a written answer to my propositions made to him, I will suspend a final opinion till I receive it. In the meanwhile, it is certain that great numbers of Slaves have been carried off to Nova Scotia.

You have sent me a letter from Mr. Geo: Muse demanding payment of Forty pounds Specie for his Expences to Pittsburgh; to which he says I am bound in a Bond of £1000. But you have not taken the least notice of this matter in your letter; not even to say whether you had paid it, rejected it, postponed it, or what. If he really has such a Bond of mine, which had entirely escaped me; if he shewed this Bond to you, and called upon you for the fulfilment of it; and if it, shall appear by my Book of Accounts that he never has been paid, nor no sum has been advanced to him (either in an Acct. which may have been raised in his name, nor in the Cash Acct.) certainly then he ought to be paid as soon as possible; either the £40 if it shall be thought reasonable, or an Acct. of the actual Expenditures which is certainly more regular, more consistent with justice, and what, from his own letter is most consistent with the spirit of my agreement; which I suppose the Bond, or the agreement entered into, is expressive of.

His Letter, brings some recollection of the matter to my mind; with this circumstance, that He was drinking, weeks together in a place, particularly at Charles Smiths. I am very willing however, to comply litterally with my agreement, and wish you to settle the matter upon terms of liberallity rather than otherwise with him, as he has lain out of his money so long.

Muse's Letter I send back to you; which should be a ground for you to act on, and to keep; I am in a hurry Yr. affect. etc.[35]

[35] From a photostat of the original, now in private hands, in the Library of Congress.

To SIR GUY CARLETON

Orange Town, May 6, 1783.

Sir: In my Letter of the 21st of April, I enclosed to your Excellency a Copy of a Resolution of Congress of the 15th, instructing me in three points, which appeared necessary for carrying into Effect the Terms of the Treaty between G B. and the United States of America; and informed you that such part as rested upon my Decision and which regarded the Release of prisoners, had been determined and was then ordered to be carried into Execution. Upon the other two points, as they respected the Receivg possession of the Posts in Occupation of the British Troops and the carrying away any Negroes or other Property of the American Inhabitants, and both being within your Controul, I had the Honor to propose a personal Interview with your Excellency; that the subject might be freely discussed, and that measures might be agreed upon for carrying into Execution those Points of the 7th Article of Treaty, agreable to their true Intent and Spirit.

Having been favored this Day with a personal Conference, I have now, to prevent Misapprehension or misconstruction, and that I may be enabled to fulfill my Instructions with fidelity and with Candor, the Honor to propose, agreeable to our Conversation, that your Excellency will be pleased to give me in writing, Information of what measures are adopting on your part for carrying into Execution, that point of the Treaty which regards the Evacuation of the Posts now in possession of the British Troops and under Your Excellency's Command; and also at what Time it is probable those Posts or any of them may be relinquished and the fleets and Armies of his Britannic Majesty withdrawn.

Respecting the other point of Discussion, in addition to what I mentioned in my Communication of the 21st ulto. I took occasion, in our Conference to inform Your Excellency, that in Consequence of your Letter of the 14th. of April to R R Livingston Esqr, Congress had been pleased to make a further Reference to me, of that Letter, and had directed me to take such Measures as should be found necessary for carrying into Effect the several Matters mentioned by you therein. In the Course of our Conversation on this point, I was surprized to hear you mention, that an Embarkation had already taken place, in which a large Number of Negroes had been carried away. Whether this Conduct is consonant to, or how far it may be deemed an Infraction of the Treaty, is not for me to decide. I cannot however conceal from your Excellency that my private opinion is, that the measure is totally different from the Letter and Spirit of the Treaty. But waving the Discussing of the point, and leaving its decision to our respective Sovereigns, I find it my Duty to signify my Readiness, in Conjunction with your Excellency, to enter into any Agreements, or take any Measures which may be deemed expedient to prevent the future Carrying away *any Negroes* or *other property* of the American Inhabitants.

I beg the favor of your Excellency's Reply, And have the Honor etc.[36]

To MRS. RICHARD BENNETT LLOYD

Tappan, May 7, 1783.

Madam: I am at this place on a conference with Sir Guy Carleton, previous to my coming here I was honored with your favor of the 18th. of last month.

[36] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Mr. White[37] being among those characters which stand proscribed by the Laws of this State, can only be relieved by Legislature authority; and this is one of the points, which Congress by the Treaty is to recommend to the several States.

Mrs. White, and her children (who I am informed, propose to remain in New York) cannot, I persuade myself, be in danger of personal insult: your apprehensions therefore, on this score, may be calmed. In speaking this language, I not only give my own opinion, but the sentiments of some of the most respectable characters of this State (N. York).

With compliments to Mr. Lloyd, I have the honor, etc.[38]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, May 7, 1783.

Parole Newport. Countersigns Salem, Kingston.

For the day tomorrow { B. General Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. Hampshire Brigde.

The Jersey Battalion gives the Guards and the 5th. Massa. regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

Untill further orders the corps which gives the fatigues for the day will furnish a Corporal and three orderly men for the Adjt. Genl. office, to parade at the Newbuilding at half after eleven o'clock.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Orange Town, May 8, 1783.

Sir: The copy of my Letter of the 21st of April to His Excellancy Sir Guy Carleton, with a Copy of his reply to me, which I had the Honor to transmit to your Excellency, will have

[37] Henry(?) White, a member of the royal council of New York. He went to England in 1783.

[38] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

informed Congress, that the 5th. of this Month was agreed upon between us for an Interview at this place.

In Consequence of this Arrangement I arrived here on the 4th. The Contingents of a Water passage in a frigate, prevented Sir Guy Carletons arrival until the Evening of the 5th. On the 6th. our Interview took place at my Quarters, about three Miles from the River.

Our Conversation upon the different subjects to which my Instructions pointed me, was diffuse and desultory; and closed with a proposition on my part, and acceded to on the part of General Carleton, that the points of discussion should be reduced to writing.

I have the Honor to inclose a Copy of the Letter which I wrote to Sir Guy Carleton, the Evening of our Conference; and to which I expected to receive his Answer, being to dine with him the next day on Board the Frigate. Coming on Board the Ship, I found Sir Guy under a very severe Fit of the fever and Ague (a previous fit of which he had experienced the Day of his Arrival). In these Circumstances, and wanting, as he said, to have recourse to some papers in New York, previous to makg. an Answer to my Letter; And at the same Time urged by the Exigency of other Business, he had determined to return immediately to N York; apologizing to me, and promising that I should hear from him soon, on the Subjects of my proposition. Thus I find myself without an Answer to my Letter, or such an Issue to our Interview as I had wished. And the Ship is this Morning gone down the River.

In this situation, willing to give Congress every Information in my power, I have desired the Gentlemen who were present at the Conversation which passed in our first Interview, to recollect and put in writing the Substance of it. This they have been so obliging as to do, and a Copy of it is enclosed.

As soon as I am possessed of a Reply from General Carleton, to my Letter of the 6th. I will do myself the Honor to transmit a Copy to your Excellency, without delay.

It is my Duty also to inform Congress that, in consequence of their Resolutions of the 15th. of April, and a reference to me of the Letter of Sir Guy Carleton of the 14th. of April, to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs; and not thinking it proper to suffer any further Delay; I have appointed Daniel Parker Esqr. Egbert Benson Esqr. and Lieut Colo Wm. S. Smith, as Commissioners on the Part of the United States, to attend and inspect the Embarkations that in future may be made at N York, previous to the final Evacuation of that City. The powers with which these Gentlemen are vested, will appear from a Copy of their Appointment and Instructions, which is inclosed, and which I hope will meet the Approbation of Congress. I have the Honor etc.[39]

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER[40]

Orange Town, May 8, 1783.

Whereas His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton Commander in Chief of the British Troops in the Posts now occupied by His Britannic Majesty contiguous to the Atlantic, did on the 14th of April last, write to the Honble. R. R. Livingston one of the American Ministers, in the Words following to wit.

New York, April 14, 1783.

Sir: As I observe in the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty it is agreed, after stipulating that, "all Prisoners on both sides shall be set at

[39] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on May 12 and referred to James Madison, Abraham Clark, and James Wilson.

[40] American Commissioners to superintend the British embarkation at New York.

liberty," that His Britannic Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American Inhabitants, withdraw all his Armies, Garrisons, and Fleets from the United States, and from every Port, Place and Harbour within the same &c." and as Embarkations of Persons and property are on the point of being made, I am to request that Congress would be pleased to empower any person or persons on behalf of the United States to be present at New York, and to assist such persons as shall be appointed by me, to inspect and superintend all Embarkations which the Evacuation of this place may require, and that they will be pleased to represent to me every infraction of the Letter or Spirit of the Treaty, that redress may be immediately order'd.

Whereas Congress did, on the 24th of April 1783 refer the said Letter to me, with directions to take such Measures for carrying into effect the several matters therein mentioned as to me should seem expedient: and whereas I have thought it expedient and necessary that Commissioners should be appointed for the purposes aforesaid and to carry fully into execution, the Instructions of Congress "for obtaining the delivery of all Negroes and other property of the Inhabitants of the United States in the possession of the British forces, or any Subjects of or Adherents to His Britannic Majesty."

I do therefore, in Virtue of the Powers vested in me as aforesaid, hereby nominate, constitute and appoint you the said Egbert Benson, William S. Smith and Daniel Parker Commissioners on behalf of the United States for the purposes before mentioned, and you are to attend particularly to the due execution of that part of the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty, where it is agreed His Britannic Majesty shall withdraw his Armies &c from the United States "without causing any destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American Inhabitants." And you the aforesaid Egbert Benson,

William S. Smith, and Daniel Parker, or any two of you, are hereby fully authorized and empowered to be present at New York, and to assist such persons as shall be appointed by the Commander in Chief of the British Forces in New York, to inspect and superintend all Embarkations, which the Evacuation of that place may require, and you are to represent to the said Commander in Chief, every infraction of the Letter or Spirit of the aforesaid Treaty, to the End that redress may be obtained; furnishing me at the same time with duplicates of all such representations or communications as may be made by you on the subject; with the Result thereof and making a general Report of your Proceedings at the determination of this Commission.

Relying on your patriotism, fidelity and abilities, I do hereby further authorize and empower you, in transacting the aforesd business, to act in conformity to your own judgments and discretion, in all such matters and things relative thereto, as are not particularly specified herein. This Commission to continue in force until the Evacuation of New York shall be compleatly effected, unless sooner revoked.[41]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Thursday, May 8, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Newark, Monmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier Genl. Putnam. / B. Qr. Mr. 1 Massa. B.

The 2d York Regt. gives the Guards and the Jersey regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

[41] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, with some minor changes by Egbert Benson.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, May 9, 1783.

Parole Princetown. Countersigns Goshen, Sussex.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Patterson. / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigd.

The Hampshire regt. gives the Guards and the 1st. York regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

MAJOR GENL. HEATHS ORDERS

A Sub. 2 serjeants 2 corporals and 30 men from each Brigade in this Cantonment, except the Hampshire are to parade tomorrow morning 8 o'clock at the Causway as a fatigue, to repair the damages done by the late Rains to the communications between the wings of the Army.

The Brigade Qr. Mr. of the day will superintend the work and report to the officer of the day.

Colonel J. Vose is appointed President, Majors Scott and Darby with one Captain from the Jersey two from the york, two from each of the Massachusetts and one from the Hampshire brigades Members of a Genl. courtmartial, to assemble at the Newbuilding tomorrow morning ten o'clock for the trial of such persons as shall be brought before them.

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, May 10, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 29th. of April. By your Letter of the 16th. I certainly understood the Officers of your Department to be included with yourself.

You have anticipated my Wishes, in having, as you mention, communicated your Sentiments on a peace Establishment, so

far as relates to your Department, to a Committee of Congress. As you promise to send me a Copy of it, I shall be gratified by a Sight of your Ideas on the Subject.

As you mention it to be very inconvenient for you to come to Camp, I do not at present recollect any thing of Importance enough to render your Attendance here necessary. I am &c.[42]

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Head Quarters, May 10, 1783.

Sir: I had not the Honor to receive your favor of the 1st. instant, until the 7th. Being at that Time at Orange Town on a Conference with Sir Guy Carleton, it had a circutous Route to make before it reached me. This Circumstance you will be so good as to admit, as an Apology for my not giving you an earlier Reply.

I have now the Honor to mention to you, as I did some Time ago to the Minister of France, that viewing the Peace so near a final Conclusion, I could not hold myself justified in a desire to detain the Troops under your Command, from the Expectations of their Sovereign; or to prevent their own Wishes of a Return to their Native Country and Friends.

Nor can I omit, on this Occasion, to express to you Sir! and to all the brave Officers and Soldiers of your Corps, the high Esteem I have for them; and the Regard I shall ever entertain of their Services in the Cause of the United States, to whose Independence and Establishment as a Nation, they have contributed a noble share.

Your particular Services Sir! with the politeness Zeal and Attention which I have ever experienced from you, have made deep and lasting Impressions on my Mind and will serve to

[42] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

endear you in my Remembrance. It would have been a great satisfaction to me to have had further Opportunity to have given you, in person, these Assurances of my Regard, could your Orders have admitted your longer Continuance in the Country. But my Regret at parting with you will be somewhat softened by the flattering Hope you are pleased to give me, that I may have the Satisfaction of embracing you again in America; where, you may be assured, I shall ever most sincerely rejoice in an Opportunity of having it in my power to convince you of the very particular Esteem and Attachment, with which I have the Honor etc.[43]

*To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

It must, my dear Count, have been a pleasing event to you, to have landed on your Native shore, crowned with Laurels after a perilous passage and the hazard of being taken; and to have receiv'd, as I am perswaded you must have done, the Smiles of a Wise and generous Prince. On these happy events I sincerely congratulate you.

To the generous aids of your Nation, and the bravery of its Sons, is to be ascribed in a very great degree that Independence for which we have fought, and after a severe conflict of more than Seven years, have obtained. The first wish of my heart is to pay the tribute of respect to a Country to which, from Public and private considerations, I feel myself bound by the most Affectionate Ties. but whether circumstances will place it in my power to gratify these wishes, is beyond my present ken. To meet you in France would be one of my greatest Inducements to go thither.

[43] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Since the ratification of the Preliminary Articles, every thing in this Country has assumed an appearance of tranquility. The British Forces however, still continue in New York; nor am I able at this moment, to fix any epoch for their departure. General Carleton with whom I have had a conference on this business at Dobbs's Ferry) says, that every exertion is making on his part for this purpose, and that he has already sent off for Hallefax and other parts of Nova Scotia, at least 6000 Refugees or Loyalists; and that it is his wish to withdraw his Troops from the United States as soon as possible, as the expence of keeping them there is considerable. In the mean time we are looking anxiously for the Definitive Treaty which alone can give perfect satisfaction, by removing doubts, difficulties and delays.

My best wishes will ever attend you; with consideration etc.[44]

*To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

My dear Chevr: The Affectionate expressions in your farewell letter of the 8th. of Jany from Annapolis gave a new spring to the pleasing remembrance of our past Intimacy; and your Letter of the 4th. of March from Paris, has convinced me that time nor distance can eradicate the Seeds of friendship when they have taken root in a good Soil and are nurtured by Philanthropy and benevolence. That I value your esteem, and wish to retain a place in your Affections, are truths of which I hope your are convinced: as I wish you to be of my sincerity when I assure you, that, it is among the first wishes of my heart to pay the tribute of respect to your Nation, to which I am prompted by motives of public considerations, and private friendships; but how far it may be in my power to yield a prompt obedience to

[44] From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

my inclination is more than I can decide upon at present. You have, my dear Chevr., placed before my eyes the exposed situation of my Seat on the Potomack and warned me of the danger which is to be apprehended from a Surprize; but, as I have an entire confidence in, and an Affection for your Countrymn. I shall bid defiance to the enterprise under a full perswn. that if success attend it, and I cannot make terms for my releasement, I shall be generously used by my Captors, and there is such a thing as a pleasing Captivity.

At present, both Armies remain in the Situation you left them, except that all Acts of hostility have ceased in this quarter and things have put on a more tranquil appearance than heretofore.

We look forward with anxious expectation for the Definitive treaty to remove the doubts and difficulties which prevail at present, and our Country of our Newly acquired friends in New York, and other places within these States of whose Company we are heartily tired. Sir Guy, with whom I have had a meeting at Dobbss ferry for the purpose of ascertaining the Epoch of this event, wd. give me no definitive answer; but general assurances, that he has taken every preparatory step for it, one of which was that a few days before, he had shipped off for Nova Scotia upwards of 6000 Refugees or Loyalists; who apprehending they would not be received as Citizens of these United States he thought it his duty to remove previous to the evacuation of the City by the Kings Troops.

The Indians have recommenced hostilities on the Frontiers of Pensylvania and Virginia; killing and scalping whole families, who had just returned to the habitations from which they had fled, in expectation of enjoying them again in Peace; these people will be troublesome Neighbours to us unless they can be removed to a much greater distance and this is only to be done

by purchase, or Conquest; which of the two will be adopted by Congress I know not. the first, I believe would be cheapest, and most consistent perhaps with justice. the latter most effectual.

Mrs. Washington is very sensible of your kind remembrance of her, and presents her best respects to you; in which all the Gentlemen of my family who are with me, cordially and sincerely join. Tilghman, I expect, has, before this entered into the Matrimonial state with a Couzen of his, whom you may have seen at Mr. Carrolls near Baltimore. My best wishes attend Baron Montesque,[45] and such other Gentlemen within your circle, as I have the honor of an Acquaintance with.

I can only repeat to you the assurances of the most perfect friendship and attachment and that I am etc.

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, Newburg, May 10, 1783.

My dear Marquiss: My letter of the 5th. of last Month by your Servant, acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 5th. of Feby. from Cadiz. I have now to thank you for your letter of the 2d. of March[46] from Bordeaux which came to my hands a few days ago. If I can get my Letter to Philada. in time, it will be conveyed to you by the Duke de Lauzen who (with his Legion) is on the point of Embarkation; and will carry with him my best wishes, and warmest friendship.

We are much indebted to you for your exertions at the Court of Spain; your Conduct there, affords us a fresh instance of your zeal in the Cause of America; and of your abilities to serve it; and will, if possible, endear you to us more.

[45] Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, Marquis de la Brède. He was aide to Chastellux.

[46] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

Congress have taken no steps, I believe, towards the appointment of a Minister for the Court of London; or if they have, it is not in my power to give you any information on this subject. they (one may presume, because it is the case with all others) are waiting with great and anxious impatience for the definitive Treaty of Peace, that a Civil and Military Establishment may succeed. At present we can form no conjecture of the time when the British Troops will evacuate New York. I have lately had a meeting with Sir Guy Carleton (at Dobbs's Ferry) on this business, but could extract nothing more than that it was his wish to withdraw the Troops as soon as possible. That he was using his best endeavors for this purpose; and that the British Government could have no inducement to continue them there a moment longer than they could avoid it.

Our Men, whose terms of Service were to expire with the War, not being able to distinguish between the ratification of the Preliminary Articles, and a definitive Treaty of Peace; and being very desirous of their discharges; have with difficulty, been kept under due Subordination but have not in any instance proceeded to such acts of outrage as I find the Scotch Corps in England have done.

The Indians on the Frontiers of Virginia and Pensylvania have lately committed Acts of hostility, murdering and Scalping many of the innocent Settlers, who were returning to their former habitations in hopes of possessing them in Peace. It is much to be doubted whether these wretches will ever suffer our Frontiers to enjoy tranquility till they are either exterminated, or removed to a much greater distance from us than they now are.

We are told that a general change has taken place in the British Ministry upon the principle of a Coalition of Parties; of what this is portentous I know not; time must discover. I never can

too often repeat to you the warmth of my friendship, and my wishes to see you in this Country; nor can I give you too many assurances of my affection.

Mrs. Washington offers respectful Compliments to Madame La Fayette, in which mine are very cordially joined. Tilghman, by this time, is I presume, one of those domestic *things* called a Husband; the rest of my family are in statu quo wishing you to receive the homage of their respectful attachments. With the greatest sincerity etc.

To ELISHA BOUDINOT

Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of congratulation contains expressions of too friendly a nature not to affect me with the deepest sensibility. I beg therefore you will accept my acknowledgments for them, and that you will be persuaded I can never be insensible of the interest you are pleased to take in my personal happiness, as well as in the general felicity of our Country. While I candidly confess I cannot be indifferent to the favorable sentiments, which you mention, my fellow Citizens entertain of my exertions in their service; I wish to express thro' you, the particular obligations I feel myself under to Mr Smith for the pleasure I have received from the perusal of his elegant Ode on the Peace.[47]

The accomplishment of the great object we had in view, in so short a time, and under such propitious circumstances, must I am confident, fill every bosom with the purest joy; and for my own part, I will not strive to conceal the pleasure I already anticipate from my approaching retirement to the placid Walks of domestic life. Having no rewards to ask for myself, if I have been so happy as to obtain the approbation of my Countrymen,

[47] A copy of this "Ode on the Peace," composed by Boudinot's father-in-law, accompanies Boudinot's letter of April, 1783, in the *Washington Papers*.

I shall be satisfied; but it still rests with them to compleat my wishes, by adopting such a System of Policy, as will ensure the future reputation, tranquility, happiness and glory of this extensive Empire; to which desirable object, I am well assured, nothing can contribute so much, as *an inviolable adherence to the principles of the Union,* and a fixed Resolution of building the *National faith on the basis of public Justice;* without which, all that has been done and suffered, is in vain; to effect which, therefore, the abilities of every true Patriot, ought to be exerted with the greatest zeal and assiduity.

I am as yet uncertain, at what time I shall be at liberty to return to Virginia, and consequently cannot inform you, whether I may be able to gratify my inclination of spending a little time with my friends in Jersey, as I pass thro' that State. I can only say that the friendship I have for a People, from whom I have often derived such essential aid, will strongly dispose me to it.

Mrs Washington begs Mrs Boudinot and yourself will accept her best Complts and thanks for your good wishes; and I must request the same favour, being with sentiments of esteem etc.[48]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, May 10, 1783.

Parole Portsmouth. Countersigns Exeter, Hampton.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / Be. Qr. Master 2d. Massa. Brigd.

The 7th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 1st. the fatigues tomorrow.

The officers composing the Court of which Colonel H. Jackson is president and those of the board whereof Brigadier Genl. Greaton is President are to do duty in the Line untill further orders.

[48] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, May 11, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Bedford, Cumberland.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Master Jersey Brigade.

The 6th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 4th. the fatigues tomorrow.

The 2d. Massachusetts regt. will march on tuesday next to relieve the Maryland Detachment and the Hampshire Battalion on the Lines.

At the General Courtmartial of which Colo. H. Jackson is president, Serj. John Oakly of the 2d. New york regt. was tried "For leading, promoting and being principal in a Mutiny on the evening of the 22d. of April last, convicted in breach of Art. 3d. Sect. 2d. of the Rules and Articles of war and sentenced to receive One hundred Lashes on his naked back and be Drumed out of the Army. with a Label on his back, with the word *Mutiny* on it.

George Gamboll and Samuel Giles, soldiers in the 7th. Massachusetts regt. For behaving in a riotous and mutinous manner on the 20th. of April last and disobeying, and actually opposing the orders of an officer, were tried and convicted in breach of art. 5. sect 18th. and the latter part of Art. 5th. section 2d. of the Rules and Articles of war, and sentenced each of them to receive one hundred Lashes on his naked back.

John Vaughn of the 8th. Massachusetts regiment For neglect of duty when on Sentry at the Public store in Newburgh on the 24th. of March last, was tried, and acquitted.

The Commander in chief approves the foregoing sentences and directs them to be carried into execution.

Vaughn is to be released from confinement.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, May 12, 1783.

Parole Dunkirk. Countersigns Epsom, Ireland.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Q. Mr. from York brigade.

The 5th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 3d. regiment the fatigues tomorrow.

At a Genl. courtmartial held at Westpoint by order of Major General Knox, Lt. Colonel Gray president. Captn. John Reily of the corps of Invalids was tried, charged with conducting himself in a manner unbecoming an officer and Gentleman, by receiving his pay from the regimental pay master for the month of January last, partly in money, the remainder in orders drawn on said Paymaster, and accepted by him; and afterwards applying to, and receiving the same Months pay from the Deputy pay Master Genl., on an assurance that he had not received it from the regimental paymaster.

The Court on mature consideration are of opinion that Captain Reily did receive a part of his pay for the month of January last, vizt. eight Dollars from the regimental paymaster, and that he afterwards did apply to and receive from the Deputy Paymaster Genl. the same Months pay, for which conduct they think him highly reprehensible, in breach of art. 5th. sect. 18th. of the Rules and art. of War and do sentence him to be repremanded in Genl. orders. He is acquitted of the other part of the charge.

The Commander in Cheif approves the opinion of the Court, and while he finds from the proceedings there is rather an appearance of indiscretion than of intentional criminality in the conduct of Captain Reily he can not but express his concern, that an officer who has bled so freely in the service of his

Country should (at the close of so honorable a contest) be guilty of behaving, not only in itself culpable, but very inconsistent with the delicacy of the Military character.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 12, 1783.

Sir: Several Motives operate to induce me to transmit to you the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Doctr Craick, Chief Physician to the Army, and to desire you to make a representation thereon to Congress in his Behalf.

The Doctors Age and Experience, his professional knowledge, with his Care and Attention to the duties of his Department, and his long Continuance in the Service, as well as the Grade he stands in upon the Hospital Arrangement, I think entitule him to a Degree of Superiority over the Hospital Surgeons; who are all, in point of Half pay Emoluments, placed on the same footing with him. This Indiscrimination at the same Time that it militates against the common principles of Subordination, Is contrary I believe, to the practice of all European Nations; the British particularly and some others, make no Distinction in their Service, between the Director of their Hospital, and the Physician in Chief of the Army, each being allowed the same Pay and Emoluments.

In asking an Augmentation of Half pay for Doctr Craick, I would explicitly protest against its extendg to any other Grade of the Hospital; nor would I wish to convey an Idea, that as to him, the Commutation should go to the five Years of his present pay: but that some proper Grade should be fixed on for him, between the Director and the Surgeons of the Hospital, such as Congress may think proper, from a view of their present pay, a Comparison of their respective subordinate Situations, and

agreeable to the principles of the Resolutions allowg Half pay to the Hospital.

This I think would be reasonable, and will be placing the Hospital Department upon their proper footg, conformable to the practice of other Nations.

If this Idea should be adopted, it will undoubtedly extend to the Chief Physician of the Southern Army, who stands in the same predicament with Doct Craick.

Your favor of the 3d of May, with the several enclosures respecting the Indian Negotiation, is received by Yesterdays post. I have the Honor etc.[49]

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, May 13, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 2d. came to Hand by the last post.

Before this Time, you will have seen the Report I made to Congress of the Interview with Sir Guy Carleton. I am very sorry its Result proved so indecisive. That this arises from the cause you mention, I am not fully persuaded.[50] I believe a want of Information from his Court, which had been for some Time without any Administration, has been a great Embarrassment to him.

The civil Jurisdiction of West Chester County, Sir Guy appeared very Willing, in his Conversation, to relinquish to the State, but what reply he will make to the Governor when he comes to reduce it to writing I do not know. Long Island he seemed to think could not be so easily delivered up. It would be attended with many Inconveniencies, and mentional particularly the facility it would give to Desertions, and the necessity

[49] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[50] In his letter of May 2 Livingston thought that the time and manner of evacuating New York had not yet been decided on by the British administration. Livingston's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

of holdg it for the Accommodation of those people who must eventually be obliged to leave the Country. Staten Island was also necessary for his Convenience.

I have had no Reply from Sir Guy since he returned to N York, nor, I presume, has Govr. Clinton heard any thing from him. I have the Honor etc.[51]

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, May 13, 1783.

Sir: We are making some preparations in the Army for a display of our Joy on the happy event of a general peace. The Exhibition will be delayed until the arrival of the definitive Treaty; If your Excellency can make it convenient to honor us with your Company on the occasion it will be a great addition to our happiness.

I take the liberty to put under cover to your Excellency several Letters which I wish to convey to some Gentlemen of your Army late in America. If the Duke de Lauzun should have sailed before their arrival I shall be much obliged for your care of their Conveyance by some other good Opportunity. With great regard etc.[52]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, May 13, 1783.

Parole Georgia. Countersigns Hallifax, Ilinois.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Q. Mrs. from Hampsh. B.

The Jersey regt. gives the Guards and the 8th. Massachusetts regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

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[51] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[52] From the original, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 11th.

As you will have the best Opportunity to be acquainted with the particular Circumstances, and uneasinesses of your Line, I must desire that you will exercise your best Judgment and Discretion, and give furloughs to such persons as you shall find necessary and proper, and for such Time as you judge best.

The Subject of the Memorial of the Non Commissioned Officers, I shall take into Consideration.[53] I am &c.[54]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, May 14, 1783.

Parole Kilmaneck. Countersigns Leicester, Malden.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Patterson. / B. Q. M. from 1st. Massa. B.

The 1st York regt. gives the Guards and the Jersey battalion the fatigues tomorrow.

The Genl. Courtmartial of which Colonel J. Vose is president will assemble at the Newbuilding on friday morning next at 10 o'clock.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

Sir: I approve of your sentiments given to the Officers commanding the Regiments at West Point, respecting the carrying

[53] In Huntington's letter of May 11 was forwarded a memorial from the sergeants of the Connecticut line. Huntington stated "they and the Soldiery are very impatient; particularly some who Families at Home to provide for: if these could have furloughs, it would be a great Favor to them." Huntington's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed "Petition sent to Congress, 21st."

[54] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

into execution the sentence of Courts Martial upon the Rioters mentioned in your Letter of this day, and they will stand justified with me.

I am loth at this time to consent to the absence of Officers from their Corps, wanting their influence as much as possible, to quiet and allay the discontents of the Soldiers, but in cases, where you find extraordinary circumstances require it, I submit to your giving liberty for such Officers to be absent for a short time. I am &c.

P. S. If there are any Non Commissioned Officers or Soldiers whose mutinous dispositions appear to arise from their anxiety to be discharged the Army, you have my full permission to give them Furloughs for any length of time they wish; we are better without them than with them. The same liberty for furloughing Men of the Connecticut Regts. was yesterday given to Genl. Huntington.[55] [MS. H. S.]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 14, 1783.

Sir: The inclosed is a Copy of a Letter which I have this moment received from Sir Guy Carleton, in reply to mine of the 6th. of May to him. I transmit it to your Excellency for the Information of Congress.

I shall wait the Instructions of Congress before I answer Sir Guy respecting the Evacuation of Penobscot, in preference to his attendg to that of N York, and will conform myself wholly to their Wishes on that head.

Your Excellency's Favor of the 9th. instant, enclosing Mr. Walke's[56] Letter to the Delegates of Virginia,[57] respecting the

[55] In the writing of David Cobb.

[56] Thomas Walke.

[57] A copy of his letter of May 3 to the Virginia Delegates, and an attested copy of the resolve of Congress of May 8 thereon, are in the *Washington Papers*. The copy of the letter is indorsed by Trumbull "Superceeded by Measures already taken."

Negroes in N York, with the Order of Congress thereon I have received this day. If Congress shall be please to suggest any further measure on this subject, than are already adopted, I will endeavour to pursue their Directions. With great Respect etc.[58]

*To JAMES McHENRY

Newburgh, May 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: You will see by the inclosed Copies, which are answers to my letters to Mr. Livingston and Mr. Madison, upon what footing the Appointment to Foreign Courts stand.

If these Gentlemen should leave Congress previous to the taking place of this event: Your friends in Congress should advise you thereof and of the time at which these Elections will probably be made; and I can facilitate your wishes by addressing myself on the occasion to any other of its Members (with whom I am acquainted) You may freely lay your Commands on Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

*To CHARLES CROOKSHANKS & COMPANY

Head Qrs., Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Gentn: The last Southern Mail brot. me a Letter from Jno. Searle Esqr. and Co. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine which were Shipped in the Freemason Captn. Wm. Thomas, and Consigned to your care at Oxford. I shall thank you, Gentlemen, for forwarding the said Wine to Mr. Lund Washington on Potomk. River; 10 Miles below Alexa. in Virginia; who will pay the freight of them from the Island, and round to that place. I have only to entreat that they may be committed to safe hands, to prevent wasteage or adulteration. I have the honor etc.

[58] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having occasion to go to Poughkeepsie for the purpose of transacting some business with his Excellency Govr. Clinton, I shall sett off for that place this Morning, and shall not probably return until tomorrow Evening. I give you this information, that you may during my absence take upon yourself the superintendance of the Army. With great regard etc.[59]

[MS. H. S.]

To COMTE DE GRASSE

Head Quarters, May 15, 1783.

Sir: I have been most agreeably surprised and gratified by the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 28th of January last, which I had the pleasure to obtain a few days ago.

The friendship which I had the Happiness to contract with you my Dear General, at our Operations in Virginia, has never been abated in my Mind, and will remain a pleasing and constant Companion of my future Life.

Whether I shall have it in my power to renew my Affection for your Excellency, by embracing you in Europe, I cannot at present declare. But should I ever have the happiness of meeting you again, either in Europe or America you may be assured I should place the event among the most fortunate Circumstances of my Life.

You will permit me to return you my warmest and most sincere Congratulations on the happy Termination of the War; an Event most favorable to America, and most glorious to the generosity and Disinterested Bravery of your Nation; by whose

[59] In the writing of David Humphreys.

kind Intervention, the United States have been led by the Hand to Independence and a Station among the Nations.

Amidst the many Obligations this Country is under to the Gentlemen of the french Army and Navy, who have borne so noble a Share in our Establishment, the Part you have acted in this great Drama, will be deeply recorded on the Minds of her Sons, in Characters of undelible Gratitude and Veneration.

Altho the 12th. of April 1782, was an unfortunate Day to your Excellency, yet it has not tarnished your Glory in the Minds of those who know your Character and have been justly informed of the Circumstances of that Day's Action. Be assured My Dear General, that my Confidence in your Bravery and Ability to Conduct so great an Army as was intrusted by the King to your Direction, is not the least abated by that untoward Event. It only proves what many a noble Hero has heretofore experienced, that Fortune is a fickle Mistress in the Distribution of her Favors; and that, like a true Coquette, she is often best pleased with giving pain to her most deserving and meritorious Gallants.

Not knowing what occasion I may have for the Originals of your Letters to me, I have caused them to be carefully copied and certified as you requested. And now do myself the Honor to transmit them to Your Excelly begging that you will be persuaded that I am with the most perfect Affection etc.[60]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Sometime in the Winter, or early this Spring, a Frenchman in New York applied after representing the manner

[60] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of his getting to that place) for leave to come out. Being a stranger of whom I had no knowledge and only his own word to support his narrative, I informed him that his application would go with more propriety to the Minister of France at Phila, than it came to me, and referred him there accordingly. The other day at Orange Town Mr. Fraunces[61] informed me, that, this applicant was the Dentist[62] of whose skill much has been said; and that he was very uneasy at not being able to get out. Having some Teeth which are very troublesome to me at times, and of wch. I wish to be eased, provided I could substitute others (not by transplantation, for of this I have no idea, even with young people, and sure I am it cannot succeed with old,) and Gums which might be relieved by a Man of skill, I would thank you for making a private Investigation of this Mans Character and knowledge in his profession and if you find them such as I can derive any benefit from encourage him to come out, and to take this in his way to whatever post, or place he may be bound. At any rate, if he really is skilful, I should be glad to see him with his Apparatus. I would not wish that this matter should be made a parade of, and therefore give you the trouble of arranging it. I cannot (having forgot it) give you this Mans name, but Mr. Frauncis can point you to him. I think he told me he lodged at a Mr. Lispenards where he had exhibited some proofs of his skill[63]

[61] Samuel Fraunces.

[62] Dr. Jean Pierre Le Mayeur.

[63] On May 20 Smith replied that Le Mayeur was "considered particularly eminent. He came to this Country, about 3 year past, recommended by General Conway to Sir Henry Clinton and General Robinson, who received him with every mark of attention. He continued in favour until one day at dinner with General Robinson and some British Officers, his Country as connected with this was reflected upon, he replyed with a degree of warmth displeasing to the General who after continuing to notice him some weeks with a cold Civility, permitted him to remain ever after unattended to, except by the Eye of suspicion. He is a man of polished Manner, of strict Integrity, at the Head of his Profession and a friend to this Country." Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

I will thank you for procuring and sending to me the Articles mentioned in the Inclosed List.[64] Get Mr. Parker to Pay for them, and place it to the Acct. between me and the Contractors. I am etc.

P. S. I have seen Advertised by Geo. and Chs. Lowe No. 57[65] Tin Plates in Boxes. Be so good as to examine these, and let me know the number in each Box; the kind and price; and whether there are Dishes with them and the prices of these also.

I wish also to know if there are any good Letter Cases with Ink, &ca. in them and the Price.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is reported to us, that, Goods in Phila. are now selling below the prime cost, or below what formerly was the prime cost of the like articles in England. Should this be the case, of which none can judge better than yourself, it would suit me very well to procure for my Family the following Articles. 1000 Ells of German Oznabgs. or Ticklinburg

4 ps. of Linn. at abt. 18d
4 Do ..... Do 2/6
4 Do ..... Do 4/
2 ps. of Sheeting.... 3/6
} Sterlg. prime Cost

a piece of fine Cambk. 2 pieces strong Check, wide kind 2 dozn. large Table Cloths 3 dozn. Napkins to suit Do. 12 pr. largest, and best kind of Bed Blankets 200 (Dutch) Blankets for my Negros. 1 Cask of 4d. Nails.

[64] The draft of the list of articles accompanies the draft of this letter in the *Washington Papers*. The items wanted were "The Duke of Hamilton's Travels through France; Young's Tour through Ireland; The Trial between Sir Richard Worsley and Maurice Bissett; a pair of handsome and Fashionable Spurrs; 10 lbs of the best Hair powder, 4 lbs of which was to be Grey."

[65] Name of the street inadvertently omitted.

1 Cask of 8d.
1 Do.... 10d } Nails: flat points
1 Do.... 20d

4 Ct. weight of white Lead Gd. in Oyl. 1 Piece of Russd. drilling.

If the above Articles can be had at such low rates as we are informed I would thankfully allow the usual Commissions for purchasing of them. The Money shall be paid *here* upon demand or if it necessary to deposite at the Sale, Mr. Morris I perswade myself upon shewing him this Letter would advance it in Phila. and direct the application of the like sum in my hands which shall be paid to his order.

You will be pleased to observe that the purchase of these things depends *absolutely* upon the price; as I do not mean to buy them unless they are as low as they are reported to be.

The Blankets which I used to Import for my Negros came under the description of Dutch Blankets, abt. 15 in a piece, striped large and of the best quality, such I now want. In case of a purchase, I would have them sent to my House upon Potomack River consigned to Mr. Lund Washington at Mt. Vernon abt. 10 Miles below Alexa.

My Compliments to which Mrs. Washingtons are joined are offered to Mrs. Biddle and I am etc.

To ——— STARR[66]

Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Sir: I want a neat pair sumr. Boots. You have heretofore made me two pair; neither of which fitd. being two long and large in the Shoe, and too loose in the small of the Leg; this, I presume, has been occasioned by your not understanding my

[66] A boot and shoe maker in Philadelphia.

mode of measuring; tho' taken agreeably to the directions of Mr. Didsbury of London; from whom; before the War, I always got my Shoes and Boots and of the size exactly to suit me.

I again inclose you a measure taken very correctly, more so perhaps than any of the former, by which if you think you can make me a pair of thin, draw Boots, I could wish to have them sent to me as soon as possible. If on the other hand, you have any doubts about you, I had rather you would hold in reserve some good Leather and wait, altho' I am in immediate want, till you can take measure of me yourself. At any rate let me know by the Post whether I am to depend on the Boots *immediately,* or not, that I may govern myself accordingly. I am etc.

*To MISS SIDNEY LEE

Hd. Qrs., State of New York, May 15, 1783.

Madam: Pursuant to the Promise in my last, I wrote to a Gentlemen who I thought most likely to obtain an Authenticated Copy of your Brothers Will, and have receivd an answer, of which the Inclosed is a Copy. When I get the Will, it shall be forwarded, notwithstanding Copies thereof appear to have been sent to you heretofore. With great respect etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, May 15, 1783.

Parole Niagara. Countersigns Orkneys, Preakaness.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Q. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigde.

The 1st. Massa. Regt. gives the Guards and the 2d. York regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Waggon Master Genl. having occasion for eight team Drivers, they are to be furnished in the following proportion,

The Jersey, York, Hampshire and 3d. Massa. Brigades, one each, and the 1st. and 2d. Massa. Brigades two each. These men are to join the Waggon masters Department immediately but must attend their regiments on days of Muster.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, May 16, 1783.

Parole Poughkeepsie. Countersigns Fishkill, Newburgh.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brig.

The 4th. Massachusetts regiment gives the Guards and the Hampshire regiment the fatigues tomorrow.

The several corps in this Cantonment are to square and deliver at the Newbuilding with all convenient speed the following pieces of timber. vizt.

	ps	feet long	square
Maryland Detachment	6	31	7 inch
Jersey Regiment	16	31	7.
Do. Battalion	6	31	7.
1st. Newyork Regt.	13	31	7.
2 do.	9	31	7.
do.	6	25	7.
Hampshire regt.	20	25	7.
Do. Battalion	6	25	7.
1st. Massa. Regiment	19	25	7.
7th.	20	25	7.
4th.	18	25	7.
3d.	19	25	7.
6th.	20	25	7.
8th.	18	25	7.
5th.	19	25	7.

The Quarter Master Genl. will direct where the timber may be cut, agreeable to the orders of the 20th. of April last.

The Inspection of the Army for the month of May will take place on the following days. vizt.

Maryland Detacht. and Jersey brigade the 20th. Inst. York and Hampshire Brigades 21. 1 Massachusetts do. 22 2d. do. do. 23. 3d. Massachusetts Brigade 24th.

The Troops at Westpoint and its dependences, on the 26th. and 27th. in such order as will best suit the Duties of the Garrison.

The necessary Rolls may be had at Colonel Stewarts Quarters.

MAJOR GENL. HEATHS ORDERS

The regimental pay masters will call on the Assistant Clothier Genl. at Newburgh for a proportion of what articles he has on hand to issue.

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, May 17, 1783.

Parole Turkey. Countersigns Vienna, Waldeck.

For the day tomorrow { B. Genl. Dayton. / B. Q. M. from Jersey Brigd.

The 3d. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 7th. the fatigues tomorrow.

At the General Courtmartial of which Col. J. Vose is president, Corporal St. Laurence of the 2d. New York regt. was tried for wilful disobedience of orders on the evening of the 30th. of April last, and for insulting Ensign Dodge[67] by saying damn your orders sir. Corporals Kelly and Amerman of the same regt. were also tried for wilful disobedience of orders on the same evening.

[67] Ensign Samuel Dodge, jr., of the Second New York Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

The Court find each of them Guilty of the charge respectively against them and sentence Corporal St.Laurence to be reduced to a private Sentinel and receive one hundred lashes on his naked back. Corporals Kelly and Amerman to be reduced to private Centinels. Corporals Meadows and Barns and Warren Birch of the 8th. Massachusetts regimt were tried and convicted of Mutinous conduct on the evening of the 30th. of April last, in breach of art. 3d. sect. 2d. of the Rules and Articles of war, and sentenced, Birch to receive one hundred lashes on his naked back: Corporals Meadows and Barns each to be reduced to private Centinels and to receive one hundred lashes on his naked back. Dennis Myers, a soldier of the 6th. Massa. regt. was tried for desertion. The Court find him Guilty of absenting himself without Leave and sentence him to receive fifty lashes on his naked back, they acquit him of Desertion.

The Commander in Chief approves the foregoing Sentences.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 17, 1783.

Sir: Having perused with attention your Letter of the 16th, and the Papers enclosed in it, respecting the Court of Enquiry[68] appointed in the Orders of the 3d of April 1783; upon mature consideration I am of opinion, that the Court ought to proceed without delay to the investigation directed therein, notifying Major Reid,[69] and taking all such measures as may seem proper to them for ascertaining the facts fully, and reporting their

[68] Major Reid objected to the legality of the court, and gave his objections in writing. They were considered insufficient and he was called upon by the court "to give Information upon the Matters in Question, which he refused." Reid's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[69] On May 18 Benjamin Walker wrote to Reid that the Commander in Chief "has directed the Board to proceed, agreable to former Orders. . . . Whether you will leave Camp under these circumstances is left to your own decision." Walker's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

opinion thereon at large, which, if approved, will be considered as the final determination of the matters in question, of which all persons concerned should be previously apprised, that they may regulate their conduct accordingly. I am etc.[70]

To MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor by Capt. Segond, and have informed that Gentleman that I have the same Ideas of the Impropriety of the Appointment he solicits as you express in your Letter. I have however written a Line to the Secretary at War in his Behalf, mentiong his Circumstances, and leaving it entirely with Genl Lincoln whether to apply to Congress in favor of his Promotion or not, as he shall think Circumstances and Capt Segond's particular Case may render proper. I am &c.[71]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with two Letters from you. One under the 16th. of March, the other of the 3d of April. And Yesterday I had the pleasure to receive that of the 20th. of April, by your express Boat to Philadelphia.

The subjects of the two first are superceded by the Arrival of Peace; an Event on which I return you my Congratulations with the utmost Sincerity and Cordiality: an Event, to the Attainment of which, it is your happiness, to have contributed a very noble part, the Impression of which Is deeply fixed in the Minds of your fellow Citizens, and the Recollection of which will not be easily obliterated from their grateful Breasts.

[70] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.
[71] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Pleasing as the Prospect of Peace is to me, I feel that it must be very grateful to you, as it relieves you from a Load of Care, Toil and Anxiety, which I can easily conceive, from the Experience I have had in Situations not dissimilar to yours.

The Mode you propose of getting the Troops to the Northward by Water, if it can be effected, I think an eligible one; and that they should be removed as soon as possible, before the extreme Heats come on; but this must be submitted to the Secretary at War, who must form the necessary Arrangements: So must also the Disposition of the Cavalry Horses; an Act of Congress for their Sale, having passed the 17th of April. I shall write to Genl Lincoln on this Subject, and give it as my Opinion that unless Congress should have some particular reasons against it, that the Troops should be early removed to the Northward, and that their Removal, if possible, should be effected by Water. Humanity, as well as policy, dictates this Measure. It will save the fatigues of a toilsome and Sultry March, in the most disagreeable Season; and will bring them to the Northward in the most expeditious, as well as the least expensive, and easiest manner. It will also prevent the Ravages and Distress which the Country, thro' which they must pass by Land, would probably experience.

The Arrangement of a peace Establishment, which is now under the Consideration of Congress, prevents my being so explicit on the Removal of the Troops, as I should otherways be, was I informed of their final Intentions; but I take it for granted that none of the Pennsylvania or Maryland Troops will be retained to Garrison any of the Southern Posts, because the Times of their Inlistment, are generally I believe, for the War. General Lincoln I think will be decisive with you on this Head.

I have at Times through the Course of this Winter, had much Anxiety from the Disposition of the Troops in this Department:

but happily the prospects of Peace have given me much relief; and we shall I hope, be able to quit the Field without any disgraceful Excesses. The principal Uneasiness now remaining, arises from an Anxiety and Impatience of the *Men for the War* who have their Minds impressed with an Idea that the War is at an End, and that they are entitled to their Discharges. If the Definitive Treaty is not too long delayed, I have a Hope, that even this Circumstance will pass over easier than has been feared.

I shall leave to your own Judgment and Discretion, to determine when Circumstances can admit of your coming to the Northward. I will only add that I shall be extremely happy in an Opportunity to take you by the Hand and to felicitate you on the glorious and happy Issue of our Toils. I have the honor etc.

P S. just at closing this Letter, yours of the 4th of April, covering the Returns for the Month of March, came to Hand.[72]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Sir: From the inclosed Transcript of a Letter from M Genl Greene to me, and the Extract of my Reply to him, you will learn, the Wishes of Genl Greene respecting the Removal of the Troops from the Southward. And you will also observe my Opinion thereon, provided no Reasons of Congress shall militate against it.

Will you be pleased to obtain the Pleasure of Congress on this Subject, and in Consequence, communicate to M Genl Greene, your determinate and decided Instructions thereon.

Enclosed is an Acceptance from the Engineers Department, of the Commutation proposed by the Resolutions of Congress of

[72] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the 22d of April. Also a Letter from Colo. Humpton of 2d Pensylvania Rgt. on the same subject. I have the Honor etc.[73]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, May 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to inclose to you a Memorial which Capt. Segond has presented to me, at the same time soliciting my recommendation to Congress to promote him one Grade, by Brevet, from his present rank; considering the length of his Service and in the full belief that he has been a brave and Zealous Officer I should not hesitate to comply with his request and the more so as it involves no additional Expences but as there is Captain De Pontiere[74] and perhaps other Officers who have served in the same Rank as long as Captain Segond, it becomes a question if the same favor should be extended to all, or whether Cap Segond's Services have been such as to entitle him to preference; of this you Sir with whom he has chiefly Served will be better able to judge and I therefore take the liberty to refer him to you with the assurance that I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever you may think proper to be done.[75]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, May 18, 1783.

Parole Alicant. Countersigns Baltic, Cicilly.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Q. M. York Brigade.

The 8th. Massachusetts regiment gives the Guards and the 6th. the fatigues tomorrow.

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[73] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[74] Capt. Louis de Pontière, of the Continental Dragoons by brevet and aide-de-camp to Baron Steuben. He served to April, 1784.

[75] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, May 19, 1783.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Epson, Falmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / Brig. Qr. Mr. Hampshire B.

The 7th. Massachusetts regiment gives the Guards and the 5th. the Fatigues tomorrow.

At the Genl. Courtmartial of which Col. J. Vose is president, Mr. Bartholomew Fisher, Forage Master, was tried, charged with misconduct in office in defrauding the officers of the army in general and Brigr. Genl. Putnam in particular of part of their allowance of Grain for forage in the month of april last.

The Court on consideration are of opinion that the charge against Mr. Fisher is not supported and they do acquit him.

The Commander in chief approves the opinion of the court. Mr. Fisher is released from Arrest.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, May 20, 1783.

Parole Geneva. Countersigns Holland, Indostan.

The Maryland Detachment gives the Guards and the Jersey regiment the fatigues tomorrow.

For the day tomorrow { B. Genl. Patterson. / B. Qr. Mr. 1st. Massa. Brigade.

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I accept with pleasure your Congratulations on the Arrival of Peace, an Event happy to the Country, and glorious

for those who have had the immediate Concern in its procurement.

The Arrangement of a Peace Establishment, Congress have now under their Consideration; But as I am totally Ignorant of what will be the Result of their Determinations, it is impossible for me to say how far it will be in my Power to comply with your Wishes. I can only say, that my Inclination to serve you will not be wanting, and a Recollection of your Merits and Services will present you to my Mind, should an Occasion offer itself, when you can with Honor and Propriety be provided for.

Agreeable to your request, the Appointment of Lieutt Pratt[76] as Q Master, and Lieut Beaty[77] as Pay Master to the 3d Pennsylvania Regiment, are announced in Genl orders. I am &c.[78]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, May 21, 1783.

Parole Kendal. Countersigns Litchfield, Malden.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brige.

The Jersey Battalion gives the Guards and the 1st. York regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Contractors and Sutlers of the Army are not to sell any Rum, or spirituous Liquors to the Troops, unless the person applying therefor produces a written permission, specifying the quantity, and signed by a Commissioned officer.

The General thinks it necessary to caution the soldiers against the foolish practice, which he is informed has prevailed in some instances, of disposing of their Notes and securities of pay, at a very great discount, when it is evident the Speculaters on those

[76] Lieut. John Pratt.
[77] Lieut. Erskurius Beatty (Beaty). He served to November, 1783.
[78] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

securities must hereafter obtain the full payment of their nominal value. He also wishes that any instances which shall be discovered of fraud or unfairness in the dealings of Sutlers or Traders might be reported in writing to the Orderly office in order that measures should be taken to remedy all abuses of that kind.

To THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF TROOPS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency the Governor of this State having determined to reestablish Civil Government in the County of West Chester, and having directed the Honble Chief Justice Morris[79] to repair to that County for the purpose; It is my Order, that you, with the Troops under your Command should be aiding and assisting, so far as may be necessary, in carrying the intention of His Excellency the Governor into effect.

To accomplish this with the greater facility, you will remove your Corps to the neighbourhood of Mile Square, or such place as shall be agreed upon between Chief Justice Morris and yourself, as best calculated to promote the object in view, as well as most convenient for covering your Men, and obtaining the necessary supply of Provision, which I conceive will be forwarded by Water.

You will pay the strictest attention to prevent the Troops from committing any outrages or excesses on the persons or property of the Inhabitants, under pretext of their having been disaffected; You will not suffer any Officer or Soldier, on any consideration whatever to pass on to York Island, unless by permission from Head Quarters; And in all matters of Civil Resort

[79] Richard Morris.

you will apply to the Chief Justice for his opinion thereon to which you will conform, and to whose requisition for military aid you will also yield implicit obedience.

This Order is to be delivered over to the relieving Officer and to be considered as a standing Regulation.[80]

*To LEWIS PINTARD

New Burgh, May 21, 1783.

Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 14th. and the Post before handed me a Letter from Messrs. Jno. Searle & Co. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine consigned to Messrs. Crookshanks & Co. of Maryld. for my use. Having received no letter from the Gentlemen whose names are last mentioned respecting the arrival of the Wine I have written to them on the Subject, and as soon as I get their answer will remit you the Sum of £72. Sterlg; Cost of the two Pipes.

The Letter herewith inclosed, requests a like qty. of Wine, and I beg the favor of you to take the trouble of forwarding it by the first safe conveyance. I am etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 21, 1783.

Sir: The enclosed Address from the Sergeants of the Connecticut Line of the Army, was presented to me a few Days ago;[81] considering its subject and the manner of Expression, I think it not improper to transmit it to your Excellency, to be laid before Congress.

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[80] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[81] The original petition of the sergeants of the Connecticut line to the Commander in Chief, dated West Point, May 1, 1783, is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

The Difference mentioned, between them and the Soldier, in their Cloathing and Allowance of Lands, [especially the latter], I think very pertinent; and will be found to be conformable to the practice of European Nations, and is particularly exemplified in the Grant of Lands, made by the British proclamation, alluded to by the Sergeants. Independent of this practice, the reason is well founded, as it serves to prompt that Pride of military distinction, which is necessary in the Sergeant, to raise him to that superiority over the Soldier which it is his Duty to observe; and without which, he will not be able to maintain that Respectability in his Station, which the nature of his Command requires; and which, in all well disciplined Armies, is very essential to the Service. I submit it to the Consideration of Congress; and to their Wisdom I leave its decision.

Your Excellencys favor of the 9th of May, with its Enclosures, was very agreeable; and is acknowledged with much pleasure. With the highest Respect etc.[82]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, May 21, 1783.

Dear Sir: I wrote to you a few days ago for some Books &ca.; since that I have seen the following Books advertised for Sale by Mills & Hicks at their Printing office which I beg the favor of you to procure and send to me.

Charles the 12th. of Sweeden.

Lewis the 15th. 2 Vols.

History of the Life and Reign of the Czar Peter, the Great.

[82] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington. The letter was read in Congress on May 26 and referred to Theodorick Bland, Hugh Williamson, and Nathaniel Gorham.

Robertsons History of America 2 Vols
Voltaires Letters
Wildman on Trees; if in Estimation
Vertots Revolution of Rome 3 Vols.
Do. of Portugal } If they are Esteemed

If there is a good Booksellers Shop in the City I would thank you for sending me a Catalogue of them and the prices that I may choose such as I want. I am etc.[83]

*To JOHN SEARLE & COMPANY[84]

Head Qrs., State of New York, May 21, 1783.

Gentln: A few days ago I was honored with your favor of the 3d. Ulto. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of Wine consigned to Messrs. Chas. Crookshanks & Co. of Maryland for, and on my Acct. It is to be presumed the Vessell is safe arrived at her destined Port as the *original* Letter and Invoice are come to hand; but having heard nothing from these Gentlemen on the subject I am totally in the Dark respecting the matter.

I shall pay, as you desire, the cost of the Wine, to wit: £72. Sterlg. to Lewis Pintard Esqr. and have to thank you for this Instance of your recollection of and attention to me, and to request that you would by the first *good* conveyance to Potomack River in Virginia send me two other Pipes of your very choicest (old) Madeira Wine, a Box of Citron and two Baskets of Figs (both fresh and good), the cost of all which shall be paid to Mr. Pintard if it is your desire.

Permit me, before I conclude, to express to you my sensibility at the favourable manner in which you have been pleased to

[83] On Smith's letter of May 20 Washington has entered: "Also recd. Robinsons History of America Voltairs Letters Lewis 15th. 4 Vols Charles the 12th. Register for 1781."

[84] Then located on the Madeira Islands.

Speak of my Services in the great contest between America and G: Britain; from the distresses of which she has now a prospect of emerging. For your congratulations on the success of this arduous struggle and your friendly wishes for my persl prospy you will please to accept my acknowledgements and thanks, and the assurances of my being Gentn, Yr. etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,
Thursday, May 22, 1783.

Parole Normandy. Countersigns Oporto, Pottsdam.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massachtt. Brige.

The 2d. Newyork regiment gives the Guards and the Hampshire Battalion the Fatigues tomorrow.

At the General courtmartial of which Colonel J. Vose is president, George Taylor, a soldier of the 7th. Massa. regt. was tried and convicted of Desertion, and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his naked back.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

The Genl. courtmartial of which Colo. H. Jackson is president, will assemble this day at the Newbuilding at 12 o'clock, for the trial of Captain Webb[85] of Light Dragoons; all evidences and others concerned will attend.

Lieutt. Pratt of the 3d. pennsa. regt. and Lieut. Beatty of the same are appointed, the former to be Quarter Master and the latter paymaster of the regts. to which they belong.

The officers composing the Genl. courtmartial of which Col. J. Vose is president are to do duty in the Line untill further orders.

[85] Capt. John Webb. Heitman states that he resigned in April, 1783.

Many of the officers composing the General courtmartial of which Col. H. Jackson is Prsident, having been absent to day; That Court is directed to assemble at the Newbuilding tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, May 23, 1783.

Parole Quebec. Countersigns Roxbury, Salem.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Dayton. / Brigd. Qr. Master Jersey Brige.

The Hampshire regt. gives the Guards and the 1st. Massa. regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

AFTER ORDERS

The Genl. Courtsmartial of which Colonel H. Jackson and Colo. J. Vose are presidents, are desolved; and another court ordered to assemble at the Newbuilding tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock of which Colo. Tupper is appointed president, Lt. Col. Vandyck, Major Knap with two Captns. from the Jersey, two from the York two from the 1st. Massa., one from the 2d. one from the 3d. and two from the Hampshire Brigades Members, for the trial of such persons as shall be brought before them.

To MAJOR JEAN BERNARD GAUTHIER DE MURNANS

Head Quarters, Newburg, May 24, 1783.

This Certifies that Monsr. de Murnan has held the rank of Major of Engineers in the service of the United States from the Month of March 1778 until the present day; that he appears to have been actuated with great zeal and fidelity in performing his duty, so far as his services have fallen under my immediate

observation, and that he having served a considerable part of the War, under the particular Orders of Major General the Marquis de la fayette; the Chevalier Du Portail Major Genl of Engineers in the American service; the Chevalier de Choisy Marl. de Camp in the Armies of his Most Christian Majesty; the American Major Generals Sullivan and Howe; and Brigr. Genl Hand now Adjt Genl of the American Army, hath obtained from each of those Officers honorary testimonies of service, setting forth that his conduct as Major of Engineers had met with their approbation, and certifying his activity, intelligence, and bravery on all occasions.[86]

GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, May 24, 1783.

Parole Tunbridge. Countersigns Versailles, Warsaw.

For the day tomorrow { Brigd. Genl. Putnam. / B. Qr. Mr. from York Brigade.

The 6th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 4th. the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, May 25, 1783.

Parole Adrianople. Countersigns Baltic, Cambridge.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Qr. Mr. Hampshire Brigde.

The 5th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 3d. the fatigues tomorrow.

The 8th. Massachusetts regt. will march on tuesday next to releive the 2d Regt. on the Lines.

[86] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, May 26, 1783.

Sir: The inclosed papers were handed to me a few Day ago. The Case of the Officer[87] as therein represented, appears singularly hard; but I can only refer him to the Civil power, for Relief from civil processes.

I will thank your Excellency to take the Trouble of reading the papers, and, if any legal Remedy can be given to Lieut Steuart, that you will be pleased to suggest the Mode to B Genl Hazen. With great Respect etc.[88]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, May 26, 1783.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Essex, Fairfield.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Patterson. / B. Qr. Mr. from the 1st. Massa. B.

The Jersey regiment gives the Guards and the Maryland Detachment the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Tuesday, May 27, 1783.

Parole Gottenburgh. Countersigns Hartford, Ilchester.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigade.

The 1st. York regt. gives the Guards and the Jersey Battalion the fatigues tomorrow.

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[87] Lieut. William Stuart, of the Second Canadian Regiment, had been arrested by the sheriff for seizing bills of exchange going into New York. His letter of May 7 to Brig. Gen. Moses Hazen, explaining his situation, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[88] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

The regimental Surgeons are to make Returns of their Sick weekly to Doctr. Craick.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolve

By the United States in Congress assembled, May 16, 1783.

Resolved, That the commutation in lieu of half pay, as well to chaplains as to the officers of the hospital department and medical staff, shall be calculated by what they are respectively entitled to, agreeably to the resolutions of the 17 January and 8 May, 1781.

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, May 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: Mr George Readhead and Mr John Johnson, by whom you will receive this, are empowered by the State of So Carolina, to demand and receive all the public and private property, which has been carried off from that State, by the British Forces.

They have been directed by the Delegates of So Carolina, to take my Instructions, respecting the Mode of Conducting their Business.

Sir Guy Carleton will doubtless expect all Applications of this nature to be made to him thro you. I have therefore advised these Gentlemen to call on you, and take your directions in the Matter. And I have to request that you will be pleased to give them whatever Information and Assistance is in your power, towards effecting the Objects of their Mission. I am &c.

N B. Not having had the pleasure to hear from you since your Appointment, I will thank you for a Line, 'tho it be only to inform me that you have *nothing* to Communicate.[89]

[89] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, May 28, 1783.

Sir: I received your favor of the 20th, respectg the Case of Lieut Colo Ternant; but not having been furnished with the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of March, promoting you to the Rank of Brigadier, I am unable to do any thing more than to refer him to the Secty at War and to Congress, from whom I trust he will experience that Justice and Attention, which his Merits and Services require, and which may be consistent with the Rules of propriety, and the general Good of the American Army.

I have written to Lt Colo Ternant and have given him a Certificate of his Services, which I hope will be useful to him. I am etc.[90]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

Head Quarters, May 28, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 20th. with the several papers inclosed. I have attentively perused the whole; but the Resolution of the 26th of March, by which Genl Armand obtained his promotion, not having been forwarded to me, I am unable to judge of the Terms of its expression, or the propriety of your reasoning thereon; nor can I say how far your Observations on the intention or extent of his promotion will apply.

The Secretary at War being fully acquainted with your subject in particular, as well as the general Rules and Practice of

[90] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Promotions, I am obliged to leave the Matter with him; confiding in his Judgment, and trusting, that, from a knowledge of your Merits and Services, with which I am persuaded he is very well impressed, he will be disposed to interest himself in your Favor with Congress, in every Way that will be consistent with the Rules of Propriety and the general Welfare of the Army.

Willing to contribute what is in my power, to the fulfillment of your Wishes, I have made out a Certificate of your Services, the best my recollection would enable me to furnish. The Gentlemen to whom you have referred me not being present with the Army, I have not had the Assistance of their Information. I hope however it may prove to your Acceptance and be conducive to your Benefit.

You will be pleased to make such Use of it as you shall find proper. With much Esteem etc.[91]

CERTIFICATE

Mr. John Ternant was appointed one the sub Inspectors to the Army under my immediate Command in March 1778 and in the Month of July following was appointed Deputy Quarter Mr. General.

In September 1778 Congress were pleased to promote Mr. Ternant to the Rank of Lt. Colonel and to appoint him Inspector to the Troops in the States of So. Carolina and Georgia, where he served under Major Generals Howe and Lincoln until he was made Prisoner in Charles Town when that place surrendered to the British.

Lt Colo. Ternant Being Exchanged in the Winter of 1781 was appointed Lieut. Colo. of the Legion commanded by the then Colo. Armand Marquis de la Rouerie; he at the same time

[91] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

was appointed Inspector to the Southern Army Commanded by Maj Genl. Greene under whom he has served Since that time.

During the time that Lt. Colo. Ternant Served under my immediate Command he evinced a Zeal, intelligence and bravery which entitled him to the Character of an excellent Officer; And from the Testimony of the Generals under whom he has since served it appears that he has supported that Character throughout the whole of his Services.[92]

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, May 28, 1873.

Parole Kenntecke. Countersigns Lancaster, Marblehead.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Master 2d. Massa. Brigd.

The Hampshire Battalion gives the Guards and the 2d. York regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, May 29, 1783.

Parole Naples. Countersigns Ostend, Poland.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Dayton. / B. Qr. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

The 1st. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the Hampshire regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Commander in Chief accepts the following Report of a Court of inquiry appointed in the Genl. orders of the 3d. of April last and directs it to be made public to the Army.

The Court beg leave to report that from a comparative view of the Defence of Major Reid referred to in said orders, and of

[92] The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

the proceedings of the trial of Genl. Hazen in 1780 before a General Courtmartial of which Brigr. Genl. Stark was president and from such other testimony as has been produced, they can not find reason to justify the assertions alluded to in the said orders.

To COLONEL HENRY BEEKMAN LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, May 29, 1783.

Sir: I am this moment favored with your Letter of the 26th. and in reply have to inform you, that it is probable the whole of the Levies will soon be discharged, and that in the mean time I have written to Col Willet[93] respecting the case of Ricd Dickenson, authorizing and directing that he should be immediately dismissed, if, upon an investigation any unfairness should appear to have been made use of by the recruiting Officer, or if the peculiarity of the circumstances should justify the measure. This is all I conceived myself justified in doing in the present situation of Matters and I request you will believe I am etc.[94]

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

May 29, 1783.

Sir: The enclosed Complaints[95] against your Department, are of so serious and alarming Complexion, that I cannot omit

[93] On this same day (May 29) Washington wrote to Colonel Willett: "I inclose you a representation respecting a Soldier of your Regt. if there has been any unfairness in the inlistment I request he may be immediately discharged; or if the peculiarity of the circumstances are such as, in your opinion, will justify the measure, you will consider yourself authorized to carry the same into effect." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[94] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

[95] The complaints of the troops were that the provision issues were irregular and the provisions themselves bad and unwholesome. Copies of letters from Dayton to Heath, Scott to Stark, Stark to Heath, and Paterson to Heath, all dated May 28, 1783, and Van Cortlandt to Heath, Reid to Stark, and Heath to Washington, all dated May 29, 1783, were inclosed in this letter to Duer and Parker. The originals of these letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

to transmit them to you, with my earnest request that the Causes may be immediately removed, and that complete Satisfaction may be given to the Army.

I am also informed from West point, that the Measles is very prevalent among the Troops in that Garrison, which absolutely requires their being supplied with a proportion of fresh Meat, for those who are sick. I am &c.[96]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, May 30, 1783.

Parole Quibletown. Countersigns Reading, Sussex.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Q. M. from the York brigde.

The 4th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 7th. the fatigues tomorrow.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Saturday, May 31, 1783.

Parole Tunbridge. Countersigns Ulster, Williamsburgh.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / Brigade Qr. Mr. Hampshire B.

The 3d. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 6th. the fatigues tomorrow.

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Newburgh, June 1, 1783.

Sir: In the dispute which subsists between you and Majr Reed[97] I have pursued the advice of a Board of General Officers,

[96] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[97] Maj. James Randolph Reid.

and have done every thing in my power to give satisfaction to you, and the complaining Officers of your Regimt. and can only lament that the Measures which have been adopted have failed of the wished for effect; especially as the Court have reported "they cannot find reason to justify the assertions alluded to in the said orders."[98]

[Your Letter, with the papers respectg Lieut Stuart, I have transmitted to Govr Livingston, with a request to him, that he would consider the Case; and if any legal Remedy can be had, that he would be pleased to suggest the Mode to you, for Lieut Stuarts Relief.][99] I am etc.

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, June 1, 1783.

Parole Andover. Countersigns Bedford, Cambridge.

For the day tomorrow { Brigadier Genl. Patterson. / B. Qr. Mr. 1st. Massa. B.

The Maryland Detachment gives the Guards and the 5th. Massa. regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, June 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20 of May I received with much pleasure. For I can assure you, that, among the many worthy and meritorious Officers, with whom I have had the happiness to be connected in Service, through the Course of this War, and from whose cheerful Assistance and Advise, I have received

[98] See General Orders, Apr. 3, 1783.
[99] The portion within brackets is in the writing of Johanthan Trumbull, jr.

much support and Confidence in the various and trying Vicissitudes of a Complicated Contest, the Name of a Putnam is not forgotten; nor will it be, but with that Stroke of Time which shall obliterate from my Mind, the remembrance of all those Toils and Fatigues, through which we have struggled for the preservation and Establishment of the Rights, Liberties and Independence of our Country.

Your Congratulations on the happy prospects of Peace and Independent Security, with their attendant Blessings to the United States, I receive with great Satisfaction; and beg that you will accept a Return of my Gratulations to you, on this auspicious Event; an Event, in which, great as it is in itself, and glorious as it will probably be in its Consequences, you have a right to participate largely, from the distinguished part you have contributed towards its attainment.

But while I contemplate the greatness of the Object for which we have contended, and felicitate you on the happy Issue of our Toils and Labors, which have terminated with such general Satisfaction, I lament that you should feel the ungrateful Returns of a Country in whose Service you have exhausted your Bodily Health and expended the Vigor of a youthful Constitution. I wish however that your Expectations of returng Sentiments of Liberality may be verified. I have a hope they may. But should they not, your case will not be a singular One. Ingratitude has been experienced in all Ages, and Republics in particular have ever been famed for the exercise of that unnatural and Sordid Vice.

The Secretary at War, who is now here, informs me that you have ever been considered as entitled to full pay, since your Absence from the field, and that you will be still considered in that Light 'till the Close of the War, at which period, you will be

equally entitled to the same emoluments of half pay or Commutation, as other Officers of your Rank. The same Opinion is also given by the P M Genl, who is now with the Army, empowered by Mr Morris for the Settlement of all their Accounts, and who will attend to yours whenever you shall thing proper to send on for the purpose; which it will probably be best for you to do in a short Time.

I anticipate with pleasure the Day, and that I trust not far off, when I shall quit the busy Scenes of a military Employment, and retire to the more tranquil Walks of Domestic Life. In that, or whatever other Situation, Providence may dispose of my future Days, the Remembrance of the many friendships and Connections I have had the happiness to contract with the Gentlemen of the Army, will be one of my most grateful Reflections. Under this Contemplation and Impressed with the Sentiments of Benevolence and Regard, I commend you, my Dear Sir, my other Friends, and with them, the Interests and Happiness of our Dear Country, to the keeping and Protection of Almighty God. With great Truth etc.[1]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, June 2, 1783.

Parole Dartmouth. Countersigns Eastchester, Falmouth.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Stark. / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigade.

The Jersey Battalion gives the Guards and the Jersey regt. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolve[2]

[1] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[2] Of May 23, 1783.

By the United States in Congress assembled On motion

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief be instructed to grant furloughs to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the service of the United States, inlisted to serve during the war, who shall be discharged as soon as the definitive treaty of peace is concluded, together with a proportionable number of commissioned officers of the different grades: and that the Secretary at War and Commander in Chief, take the proper measures for conducting those troops to their respective homes, in such a manner as may be most convenient to themselves, and to the states through which they may pass, and that the men thus furloughed be allowed to take their arms with them.

In consequence of the preceding Resolution, Colonels and Commandants of regts. and corps will immediately make Returns of the number of men who will be entitled to furloughs, to the Commanding officers of the several state Lines, who will make report at Head Quarters; at the same time returns are to be made of the Noncommissioned officers and privates who will not be included in the above discription. These Returns must be made to comport with the Muster Rolls, with which they will be compared at the Inspection office.

A sufficient number of officers of the several Grades to command the troops who will remain in the field must continue with them; they are requested to make this a matter of agreement among themselves. The Commanding officers of Lines will superintend and endeavour to accomodate this business to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The pay masters of regiments and such other officer in each, as may be appointed to act as a regimental Agent for the occasion will also remain with the Army to aid in the settlement of accts.

The Pay Master and Agent having attended the completion of the business, will distribute the result of the settlements agreeably to the instructions they may receive from the officers of the corps.

The Quarter Master Genl. will have a sufficient number of printed Furloughs provided as soon as may be.[3]

The Commander in Chief wishes to give every facility in his power towards carrying the proposed measure into effect, with as great convenience and satisfaction to the Troops as possible. For this purpose the Contractors are directed to lay up adaquate supplies of Provision at the several Posts and places on the rout where it will be necessary.

Generals and Commanding officers of Lines will be pleased to make the interior Arrangements for marching the Troops of their respective States to their homes, they will receive further instructions on the subject.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to grant a full and free pardon to all Noncommissioned officers and privates now in confinement and they are to be liberated accordingly.

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I transmit you a Copy of a Resolution of Congress which passed the 26th ulto. Claiming Property of the United States &c. and remonstratg against sendg off Negroes. The purport of this Act you will collect from its perusal. I have only to request that you will be pleased to pay strict Attention to the Injunctions of Congress contained therein. I am &c.[4]

[3] See frontispiece to this volume. On the verso of this discharge is printed the following: "Head-Quarters, June 1783. The within CERTIFICATE shall not avail the Bearer as a Dischage, until the Ratification of the definitive Treaty of Peace; previous to which Time, and until Proclamation thereof shall be made, He is to be considered as being on Furlough. GEORGE WASHINGTON."

[4] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On June 2 Washington forwarded the resolve of May 26 to Sir Guy Carleton. "Your Excellency will be pleased to notice the Purport of this Act, and I am persuaded you will consider it with that Attention which you shall judge the Nature of Its Object requires." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 3, 1783.

Gentlemen: Inclosed is the proceedings of a board of Generals and Officers commanding Corps, on an Enquiry into the execution of Contract.

In consequence thereof, the Commander in Chief desires to know your objections (if any you have) to the annulling the Agreement therein Mentioned and putting the Army on the footing of the Original Contract.

I am directed also to call on Mr. Smith[5] for the circumstances of the Charge said in the proceedings to have been made by him against sundry Officers of taking an allowance to induce their Soldiers to lay out their expected Pay in Goods at his Store, and for the names of the Officers particularly concerned therein. I am &c.[6]

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 29th Ulto. has been duly received.

We are now preparing to carry into execution the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May, and I am making out the furloughs accordingly; but I am extremely apprehensive that insuperable difficulties and the worst of consequences may be expected, unless the Notes[7] you mention shall be paid to the

[5] Melancton Smith. He was a member of the firm of Duer & Parker.

[6] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

[7] Morris issued anticipatory "Notes" at 6 months.

Morris had written (May 29): "I shall cause such Notes to be issued for three Months Pay to the Army and I must entreat Sir that every Influence be used with the States to absorb them together with my other Engagements by Taxation. The present Collections are most shameful and afford but a sad Prospect to all those who are dependant upon them." Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Officers and Men before their departure from this Cantonment; it is for the sole purpose of bringing them forward to the Pay Mastr with the greatest expedition, that I send the Messenger who is the bearer of this; pray do not delay him a single instant, but if all the Notes should not be ready, forward the remainder by the earliest possible opportunity, and be so good as to inform me when they may be expected.

I write in haste and with earnestness because some circumstances which have just come to my knowledge make it necessary not a moment's time should be lost.

Tho it is much to be lamented that at least a Month's Pay could not have been given to the Troops in Money before they left this place; yet I am in hopes your Notes will in some measure remedy the Evils which might have been expected from their disappointment. Nothing else can now avert the most alarming consequences or distresses of the most cruel nature, particularly to the Officers.

Before I retire from public life, I shall with the greatest freedom give my sentiments to the States on several political subjects, amongst those will be comprehended the particular object you recommend to my attention. With great regard etc.[8]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, June 3, 1783.

Parole Ghent. Countersigns Holland, Ireland.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Greaton. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

The 2d. York regt. gives the Guards and the first the Fatigues tomorrow.

[8] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

The Maryland Battalion is to march on thursday next. Provision is to be drawn to last the corps to Pompton. and Major Lansdale will receive Instructions at Head Quarters for his further Goverment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, June 4, 1783.

Parole Kenderhook. Countersigns Lyons, Maldon.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Dayton. / B. Qr. Mr. Jersey Brigade.

The Hampshire regt. gives the Guards tomorrow and the Hampshire Battalion the Fatigues.

The agreement[9] entered into on the 16th. Jany. last between the Troops of the Cantonment of New Windsor and the Contracters, is at the desire of those Troops and with the consent of the Contracters declared Null and void; and both parties are hereafter to stand on the footing of the Original Contract with Mr. Morris.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 4, 1783.

Dr Sir: You will receive by this conveyance blank Discharges for the Non Commissd Officers and Privates of the Rhode Island Regt enlisted for the War, which, under the restriction of the Endorsement are only to be considered as furloughs until farther Orders; you will be pleased to have them filled up and the Men permitted, under the direction of a proportionable number of Officers, to retire to the State immediately. Orders will soon be transmitted to the remainder of the Corps, for the regulation of their conduct.

[9] A contemporary copy of this agreement is in the *Washington Papers*.

The furloughed Men of the Rhode Island Regt will draw Provisions at Litchfield and Hartford in their way to the State. The Genl Orders on this subject were sent by the Post.

Should there be more furloughs than you have occasion for, you will be cautious to have such care taken of the residue as will absolutely prevent their being made use of for improper purposes. I am etc.[10]

GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, June 5, 1783.

Parole Norfolk. Countersigns Oswego, Plymouth.

For the day tomorrow { Brigr. Genl. Putnam. / B. Q. Mr. York brigade.

The 7th. Massa. regiment gives the Guards and the 1st. the Fatigues tomorrow.

The Pay Masters or Agents of regts. as soon as they have finished the accounts of their own corps, are requested to attach themselves to the pay master General if they can make it convenient; and to assist in completing the Genl. settlement as soon as possible. The Commander in chief repeats his wish that the gratest dispatch may be used in effecting this business.

The Surgeons of the different corps who are furloughed, before they march will return their Medicine Chests and what Instruments they have belonging to the United States into the Apothecarys Store at New Windsor.

All Noncommissioned officers and soldiers who have money due them for Services in the Qr. Master Generals Department

[10] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On June 4 Trumbull wrote to Heath that Washington approved his forming four regiments of the Massachusetts men remaining after the discharge of those for the war. Four corps of officers were to be formed by agreement. "If that Mode should fail, other Measures will be directed when found necessary." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

will lodge the Certificates thereof with orders for payment thereon in the hands of their pay masters, who will Settle for the same. The paymasters are requested to receive them.

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Head Quarters, June 5, 1783.

Sir: The Detachment of Maryland Troops under your Orders are to be marched to their own State in the most easy and convenient manner for themselves and the Inhabitants of the Country through which they pass; the route will be by Pompton, Princeton, Philadelphia and Wilmington to Baltimore, at each of which Places Provisions may be drawn.

It will be the most eligible mode to send forward immediately an Officer to Majr. Genl Smallwood for the purpose of procuring Inlistments and ascertaining which Men are entitled to furloughs in consequence of the Resolution of Congress on the 26th Ulto. The Honble the Secry at War hath been pleased to engage that the necessary Instructions and Papers for the purpose will be forwarded without delay, these will probably be in readiness by your arrival.

Relying on your attention to preserve good order and the reputation of your Corps, and wishing you and them an agreeable march. I am etc.[11]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Head Quarters, June 5, 1783.

D Sir: His Excellency directs me to reply to your favor of the 3d. and to mention that his principle Wish is, to have the business completed as soon as may be; to effect which he will not be

[11] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

averse to having the Books a little chequered[12] if you find it necessary; however, he leaves to your Judgment and Discretion, the choice of the Expedients mentioned in your Letter. The Definitive Treaty is tho't to be near at Hand, the Arrival of which, will probably take the Genl from this place.

His Excellency thinks it best, as you propose, to procure the three Half Volumes.[13] If you will send their particular Size and Thickness, it is tho't that the best mode of obtaining them will by means of the Contractors, from N York, which will be attempted as soon as you furnish us with the necessary Directions. I am &c.[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, June 6, 1783.

Parole Justice. Countersigns Union, Happiness.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Q. Mr. from the Hampshire.

The 6th. Massachusetts regt. gives the Guards and the 4th. the fatigues tomorrow.

The Commanding officers of State Lines will be pleased to see that all Detachments of men going on furlough in consequence of the orders of the 2d. instant are properly officered; it will then be at the option of the remainder (except those who may be attached to the corps composed of the three years men) to remain with the Army, or not as may be most convenient.

All Noncommissioned officers and privates inlisted for the war who may not wish to avail themselves of the Furloughs directed to be granted by the Resolution of Congress of the

[12] Varick's letter of June 3 stated: "I should be loth to chequer his [Mr. Taylor's] Volumes with Mr. Sickels's Writing, possibly for a few days only, and then to be completed by Mr. Taylor."

[13] That is, of half the thickness.

[14] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J[onathan] T[rumbu]ll [Jr.]."

26th. of May will report themselves to the Commanding officers of their corps by 12 o'clock tomorrow, that an equal number of men engaged for three years may have the indulgence in their room.

The men enlisted for the war who remain with the Army under this *Order* are to continue to do the duty of soldiers untill the ratification of the definitive Treaty of Peace.

One sub, three serjeants, three corporals, two Drum and fifes and thirty privates to releive the Commander in Cheifs Guards to parade at the Newbuilding at 12 o'clock tomorrow. they will be taken from the three years men in the Massachusetts Line in the following proportions

	S.	S.	C.	D & f.	P.
1st. Brigade	1.	1.	1	——	10
2d. do		1.	1	1d	10
3d. do.		1.	1.	1f	10
	1.	3.	3.	2.	30.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Sir: Before I make a reply to the Subject of the Address of the Generals and Officers Commanding the Regiments and Corps of this Army presented by yourself yesterday.[15] I entreat that those Gentlemen will accept my warmest acknowledgments for the confidence they have been pleased to repose in me, they may be assured it shall never be abused; and I beg they will be persuaded that as no man can possibly be better

[15] The original signed by Heath in behalf of the others is in the *Washington Papers*. The distresses of the officers resulted from the resolve of Congress of May 26 and the General Order of June 2, based upon that resolve. The officers prayed that the operation of the order be suspended until Congress could be informed "of the wretched situation into which the army must be plunged, by a conformity to it."

acquainted than I am with the past merits and services of the Army, so no one can possibly be more strongly impressed with their present ineligible situation, feel a keener sensibility at their distresses, or more ardently desire to alleviate or remove them; but it would be unnecessary perhaps to enter into a detail of what I have done, and what I am still attempting to do in order to assist in the accomplishment of this interesting purpose; let it be sufficient to observe, I do not yet despair of success; for I am perfectly convinced that the States cannot without involving themselves in National bankruptcy and ruin refuse to comply with the requisitions of Congress; who, it must be acknowledged, have done every thing in their power to obtain ample and compleat Justice for the Army, and whose great object in the present measure undoubtedly was, by a reduction of expence to enable the Financier to make the three Months Payment to the Army, which on all hands has been agreed to be absolutely and indispensibly necessary, to explain this matter I beg leave to insert an extract of a Letter from the Superintendent of Finance dated the 29 Ulto.

It is now above a Month since the Committee conferred with me on that Subject, and I then told them no Payment could be made to the Army but by means of a Paper Anticipation and unless our Expenditures were immediately and considerably reduced even that could not be done. Our Expenditures have nevertheless been continued and our revenues lessen the States growing daily more and more remiss in their Collections, the Consequence is that I cannot make Payment in the manner first intended the Notes issued for this purpose would have been payable at two four and Six Months from the date, but at present they will be all at Six Months and even that will soon become impracticable unless our Expences be immediately curtailed.

I shall cause such Notes to be issued for three Months Pay to the Army and I must intreat, Sir, that every influence be used with the States to absorb them together with my other engagements by Taxation.

Three days ago a messenger was dispatched by me to urge the necessity of forwarding these Notes with the greatest possible expedition.

Under this State of circumstances I need scarcely add, that the expence of every day in feeding the whole Army will add very considerably to the inability of the public to discharge the debts already incurred, at least for a considerable time to come.

Altho' the Officers of the Army very well know my official situation, that I am only a servant of the Public and that it is not for me to dispense with Orders which it is my duty to carry into execution, Yet as furloughs in all Services are considered as a Matter of indulgence and not of compulsion, as Congress I am persuaded entertain the best disposition towards the Army, and as I apprehend in a very short time the two principle Articles of complaint will be removed; until the further pleasure of Congress can be known I shall not hesitate to comply with the wishes of the Army under these reservations only, that Officers sufficient to conduct the Men who choose to receive furloughs will attend them either on furlough or by detachment, the propriety and necessity of this measure must be obvious to all, it need not therefore be enforced. And with regard to the Non Commisd. Officers and Privates such as from a peculiarity of circumstances wish not to receive furloughs at this time will give in their names by 12 o'Clock to morrow to the Commanding Officers of their regiments that on a report to the Adjutant General an equal Number of Men engaged for three Years may be furloughed which will make the saving of expence exactly the same to the public.

I cannot but hope the Notes will soon arrive and that the settlement of Accounts may be completed by the assistance of the Pay Masters in a very few days, in the mean time I shall have

the honor of laying the sentiments of the Generals and Officers Commanding Regiments and Corps before Congress; they are expressed in such a decent candid and affecting manner that I am certain every mark of attention will be paid to them. I have the honor etc.[16] [MS. H. S.]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having attentively perused the Letter from Major Genl Knox to you, respectg extra Allowances to him, which you committed to my Consideration; I can with great Truth and Justice say, that the Requests made by Genl Knox, appears to me to be perfectly reasonable and well founded. In the first Instance, the Duties of his Command, from the Time of his first entering the Service, have been arduous and important; and if it was necessary to make the Observation to you, I could add, they have been executed with the greatest Attention, Ability and Satisfaction; as well as with great prudence and Oeconomy for the public. If therefore Congress should be pleased to give him the Allowance for the Time mentioned, for his Extra Services as Master of the Ordnance, I think it would be no more than what Justice Demands for his particular merits; and will involve no disagreeable Consequences.

On the other Head: altho Extra Allowances have been discontinued to Officers commandg in seperate Departments, yet General Knox's situation has been very peculiar, for the Time he has commanded at West point; particularly last Year, while the french Army was in the Neighbourhood, Curiosity led many of the most respectable Officers to visit that post, which[17]

[16] In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

[17] At this point the draft has the following: "*to a Gentleman, possessed as Genl Knox is, of great Hospitality, Politeness and Liberality.*"

Circumstance alone, led him, into many unavoidable Expences, beyond what any other Situation would have subjected him to. Independent of this particular reason, West point being a Post of great Importance, and much famed for its peculiarity of Situation and Strength, is at all Time subject to much Company, many of whom are so respectable as to claim the Attention of the Commandant. In this View, exclusive of his particular Merits at that post, I think the Request of Genl Knox is extremely reasonable and just; and if Congress should be pleased to grant him some extra Allowance therefor, it would be exceedingly gratefull to me and perfectly conformable to my Wishes. With great Regard etc.[18]

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: In answer to your favor of this date respecting the claim of Mr. Trumbull to the Commission of a Lt. Col in the Army, I can without hesitation give it as my opinion he is clearly entitled to such an appointment, for upon the resignation of Lt Colonel Harrison my former Secry. I made the proposal to Mr. Trumbull to accept that Office, assuring him at the same time (as I supposed I had a right to do) that he would be entitled to all the Emoluments which had been granted to his predecessor.

Under the sanction of this Engagement on my part, and considering the important services and great merits of Mr Trumbull, I hold it a duty not only to give my opinion in the manner I have done, but even to interest myself strongly in favour of the promotion. I have the honor etc.[19]

[18] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 19, vol. 3, fol. 389.

[19] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, June 7, 1783.

MORNING ORDERS

The Commander in Chiefs Guard will be furnished daily from the regt. which gives the other Guards, and not as directed in the orders of yesterday.

Parole Taunton. Countersigns Virginia, Williamsburgh.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Howe. / B. Qr. Mast. 1st Massa. B.

The 2d Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the 3d. the fatigues tomorrow.

To COLONEL MICHAEL JACKSON

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: In order to carry the Arrangements resulting from the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May into execution, it is His Excellency's the Commander in Chief's pleasure that you should return to the Army immediately with the Men of the Regt. who were inlisted for the War, and such proportionable number of Officers as are to be furloughed under the sd Act; it will also be necessary for your Adjt to be in Camp to register the furloughs.

Before you leave the remainder of the Reg. on the Lines it will likewise be expedient for you to ascertain which of the Officers of the Regt will choose to remain in service with the Corps which will be formed from the three Years Men; without this information it will be difficult if not impossible to make the Arrangements complete. I am etc.[20]

[20] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys."

*To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Newburgh, June 7, 1783.

Sir: My Nephew[21] who will have the honor of delivering this Letter to you, has been in bad health for more than twelve Months; he is advised by his Physicians to spend the Summer Season on the Island of Rhode Island for the benefit of the Sea Air. Any Civilities which you shew him will be thankfully acknowledged by Sir Yr.[22]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: I have the Honor to inclose to your Excellency the Copy of an Address[23] to me, from the Generals and Officers commanding Regiments and Corps, together with my Answer to them. These Enclosures will explain the Distresses which resulted from the measures now carrying into Execution, in Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of the 26th. of May; but the sensibility occasioned by a parting Scene, under such peculiar Circumstances, will not admit of description.

The two subjects of Complaint with the Army appear to be, the Delay of the three Months pay which had been expected, and the want of a settlement of Accounts. I have thought myself authorized to assure them, Congress had and would attend to their grievances; and have made some little variation respecting furloughs, from what was at first proposed. The Secretary at War will be able to explain the reason and propriety of this Alteration.

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[21] George Augustine Washington.

[22] This same letter was sent to Deputy Gov. Jabez Bowen, Capt. Isaac Collins, William Channing, and Capt. ——— Gardner.

[23] Copies of the representation of the general officers to Washington (June 5) and Washington's answer thereto (June 6) are filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

While I consider it a Tribute of Justice on this occasion, to mention the temperate and orderly behaviour of the whole Army, and particularly the accommodating spirit of the Officers in arranging themselves to the Command of the Battalions which will be composed of the three Years Men; permit me to recall to Mind all their former sufferings and Merits, and to recommend their reasonable requests to the early and favorable Notice of Congress. With the Highest Respect etc.[24]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 7, 1783.

Sir: It is with great pleasure I refer to the consideration of Congress the observations contained in the inclosed Memorial which was at my instance put into my hands by Major Genl Duportail for that purpose; And I am happy to observe that the more attention will be due to the sentiments expressed by that General Officer, because they appear not only to be the production of a well informed mind, and the result of much experience, aided by great professional knowledge, but because they seem also to be dictated by a disinterested zeal for the future tranquility and happiness of the United States.

Regarding the principles of defence on which General Du Portail has particularly treated, in a very important point of light; I cannot help recommending a proper consideration of them, in the adoption of a Peace Establishment, so far as they may be found practicable with our means, and applicable to our local circumstances. For altho' the subjects proposed are undoubtedly of very great and immediate consequence, and require that something should be done without delay. Yet how far we are able at this time to enter into extensive Arrange-

[24] In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on June 11 and referred to Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Theodorick Bland.

ments for the fortification of Posts and Harbours, and the establishment of Military Academies &c must be submitted to the wisdom of Congress and rest upon their decision.

But with regard to the proper positions to be occupied by us on the frontier, I must take the liberty to observe, that however just (under other circumstances) the sentiment might have been, that our frontier Posts ought not to be extended to the extreme boundaries of the united States; yet it appears to me, that as there are Forts already built at Oswego, Niagara and Detroit which will be surrendered into our hands, that we ought in the first Instance to occupy those in preference to any others, especially as our Posts thus established will fix the authority of the United States throughout the Western Country, more firmly, and perhaps with less expence, than could be effected by any other Arrangement.

And here I beg permission (in case this plan should be adopted) to remind Congress of the ideas suggested in my Letter of the 3d of May, respecting occupying the Posts now in possession of the British, at the moment they shall be evacuated by them, lest they may be burned or destroyed by the savages or others, of which I expressed my apprehensions very fully in the letter before alluded to. I have the honor etc.[25]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to reply to the several Queries contained in your Letter of this Day. And to inform you that

[25] The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The letter was read in Congress on June 11 and referred to the Committee on Peace Arrangements: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Oliver Ellsworth, James Wilson, and Samuel Holten.

On June 7 Washington wrote a brief acknowledgment to Du Portail for his "observations respecting the fortifications necessary for the United States," which Washington sent to Congress. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

the mode you propose for officering the four Regiments, is perfectly agreeable to him; or any other Method that you shall find necessary to accommodate to the Desires of the Gentlemen concerned, so as to make the Matter as agreeable as possible to them; but this he leaves entirely to your judgment and Discretion.

His Excellency concieves there is no necessity of any other permission or Credentials to the Officers who retire, than what is expressed in the Genl Orders, in Consequence of the Resolutions of Congress of 26th May.

The Waiters mentioned, who are of the three Years men, are permitted to attend their Officers; but this will be done with Caution and they must be furnished with Discharges which being prepared, will be signed at Headquarters and delivered to them. I am &c.[26]

GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, June 8, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Brunswick, Colloden.

For the day tomorrow { B. Genl. Patterson, / B. Qr. Mr. 3d. Massa. Brigde.

The 5th. Massa. regt. gives the Guards and the Hampshire the fatigues tomorrow.

Serjeant Bissel of the 2d Connecticut regt. having performed some important services, within the immediate knowledge of the Commander in chief, in which the fidelity, perseverence, and good sense of the said serjeant Bissel were conspicuously manifested; it is therefore ordered that he be honored with the badge of merit; he will call at Head Quarters on tuesday next for the insignia and certificate to which he is hereby entitled.

[26] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J[onathan] Tr[umbul]l Jr."

A Board of officers will assemble at the public Buildg. on tuesday at 10 o'clock A. M. to decide upon such pretentions for the badge of merit, as shall be exhibited to them.

Major Genl. Knox and Brigr. General Putnam, with the directer of Military hospitals, and Chief Physicians of the Army will constitute a Board on tuesday next at Westpoint for a particular Inspection of the officers of the corps of Invalids, to enquire into the circumstances of every individual, with respect to the time and reason of his Transference, the cause and degree of the inability under which he now labours.

The Board will be pleased to report a state of facts with their opinion thereon, that each may be considered as his case shall be thought deserving.

AFTER ORDERS

The spare amunition in the hands of the Brigade or regimental Quarter Masters is to be delivered into the Magazines immediately. The Quarter Master General upon application will furnish Waggons to bring it to the landing of Newburgh. Where Mr. Copelin will receive and forward it to Westpoint.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: In ansr to the question which has been proposed, whether the Music are entitled to fire Arms, under the Resolution of Congress of the 23d of April, I am to give it as my opinion, they are not; but that they should be allowed to take their Drums and Fifes, which is the mode that has been adopted respecting the Music who have been furloughed from this Cantonment. I am etc.[27] [MS. H.S.]

[27] In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Having before this Time given my Opinion that it was not the Intention of Congress, by their Resolution of 23d Apl. that the Music should have Arms delivered to them at being discharged; but that they should take with them their Drums and fifes; and this Determination having been carried into Effect by the Regiments which are gone. It is now too late to make any Alteration. But was not this the Case, reasons may be adduced which would operate against the Request made in your joint Letter of the 7th Instant; the Music havg had but an easy share of Duty compared with the other Soldiers, an additional Pay, with their Music found by the Public, It is supposed that their Circumstances will fully Ballance the Gratuity intended by Congress.[28]

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 8, 1783.[29]

Sir: The great object for which I had the honor to hold an appointment in the Service of my Country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it into the hands of Congress, and to return to that domestic retirement, which, it is well known, I left with the greatest reluctance, a Retirement, for which I have never ceased to sigh through a long and painful absence, and in which (remote from the noise and trouble

[28] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

[29] The length of the Circular and the consequent time consumed in making 13 copies of it account for the different dates under which many of them are found, and the different handwritings in which they are transcribed. The circular to Virginia (Governor Harrison) is dated June 12; the one to Maryland (Governor Paca), June 14; that to New York (Governor Clinton), June 21; to Connecticut (Governor Trumbull), is dated merely June; and another of the originals (the address of which has been destroyed), is dated June 11 and is in the *Washington Papers*.

of the World) I meditate to pass the remainder of life in a state of undisturbed repose; But before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent on me, to make this my last official communication, to congratulate you on the glorious events which Heaven has been pleased to produce in our favor, to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects, which appear to me, to be intimately connected with the tranquility of the United States, to take my leave of your Excellency as a public Character, and to give my final blessing to that Country, in whose service I have spent the prime of my life, for whose sake I have consumed so many anxious days and watchfull nights, and whose happiness being extremely dear to me, will always constitute no inconsiderable part of my own.

Impressed with the liveliest sensibility on this pleasing occasion, I will claim the indulgence of dilating the more copiously on the subjects of our mutual felicitation. When we consider the magnitude of the prize we contended for, the doubtful nature of the contest, and the favorable manner in which it has terminated, we shall find the greatest possible reason for gratitude and rejoicing; this is a theme that will afford infinite delight to every benevolent and liberal mind, whether the event in contemplation, be considered as the source of present enjoyment or the parent of future happiness; and we shall have equal occasion to felicitate ourselves on the lot which Providence has assigned us, whether we view it in a natural, a political or moral point of light.

The Citizens of America, placed in the most enviable condition, as the sole Lords and Proprietors of a vast Tract of Continent, comprehending all the various soils and climates of the World, and abounding with all the necessaries and conveniencies of life, are now by the late satisfactory pacification, acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and

Independency; They are, from this period, to be considered as the Actors on a most conspicuous Theatre, which seems to be peculiarly designated by Providence for the display of human greatness and felicity; Here, they are not only surrounded with every thing which can contribute to the completion of private and domestic enjoyment, but Heaven has crowned all its other blessings, by giving a fairer oppertunity for political happiness, than any other Nation has ever been favored with. Nothing can illustrate these observations more forcibly, than a recollection of the happy conjuncture of times and circumstances, under which our Republic assumed its rank among the Nations; The foundation of our Empire was not laid in the gloomy age of Ignorance and Superstition, but at an Epocha when the rights of mankind were better understood and more clearly defined, than at any former period, the researches of the human mind, after social happiness, have been carried to a great extent, the Treasures of knowledge, acquired by the labours of Philosophers, Sages and Legislatures, through a long succession of years, are laid open for our use, and their collected wisdom may be happily applied in the Establishment of our forms of Government; the free cultivation of Letters, the unbounded extension of Commerce, the progressive refinement of Manners, the growing liberality of sentiment, and above all, the pure and benign light of Revelation, have had a meliorating influence on mankind and increased the blessings of Society. At this auspicious period, the United States came into existence as a Nation, and if their Citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be intirely their own.

Such is our situation, and such are our prospects: but notwithstanding the cup of blessing is thus reached out to us, notwithstanding happiness is ours, if we have a disposition to seize the occasion and make it our own; yet, it appears to me

there is an option still left to the United States of America, that it is in their choice, and depends upon their conduct, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptable and miserable as a Nation; This is the time of their political probation, this is the moment when the eyes of the whole World are turned upon them, this is the moment to establish or ruin their national Character forever, this is the favorable moment to give such a tone to our Federal Government, as will enable it to answer the ends of its institution, or this may be the ill-fated moment for relaxing the powers of the Union, annihilating the cement of the Confederation, and exposing us to become the sport of European politics, which may play one State against another to prevent their growing importance, and to serve their own interested purposes. For, according to the system of Policy the States shall adopt at this moment, they will stand or fall, and by their confirmation or lapse, it is yet to be decided, whether the Revolution must ultimately be considered as a blessing or a curse: a blessing or a curse, not to the present age alone, for with our fate will the destiny of unborn Millions be involved.

With this conviction of the importance of the present Crisis, silence in me would be a crime; I will therefore speak to your Excellency, the language of freedom and of sincerity, without disguise; I am aware, however, that those who differ from me in political sentiment, may perhaps remark, I am stepping out of the proper line of my duty, and they may possibly ascribe to arrogance or ostentation, what I know is alone the result of the purest intention, but the rectitude of my own heart, which disdains such unworthy motives, the part I have hitherto acted in life, the determination I have formed, of not taking any share in public business hereafter, the ardent desire I feel, and shall continue to manifest, of quietly enjoying in private life, after

all the toils of War, the benefits of a wise and liberal Government, will, I flatter myself, sooner or later convince my Countrymen, that I could have no sinister views in delivering with so little reserve, the opinions contained in this Address.

There are four things, which I humbly conceive, are essential to the well being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the United States as an Independent Power:

1st. An indissoluble Union of the States under one Federal Head.

2dly. A Sacred regard to Public Justice.

3dly. The adoption of a proper Peace Establishment, and

4thly. The prevalence of that pacific and friendly Disposition, among the People of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the Community.

These are the Pillars on which the glorious Fabrick of our Independency and National Character must be supported; Liberty is the Basis, and whoever would dare to sap the foundation, or overturn the Structure, under whatever specious pretexts he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execration, and the severest punishment which can be inflicted by his injured Country.

On the three first Articles I will make a few observations, leaving the last to the good sense and serious consideration of those immediately concerned.

Under the first head, altho' it may not be necessary or proper for me in this place to enter into a particular disquisition of the principles of the Union, and to take up the great question which has been frequently agitated, whether it be expedient and requisite for the States to delegate a larger proportion of

Power to Congress, or not, Yet it will be a part of my duty, and that of every true Patriot, to assert without reserve, and to insist upon the following positions, That unless the States will suffer Congress to exercise those prerogatives, they are undoubtedly invested with by the Constitution, every thing must very rapidly tend to Anarchy and confusion, That it is indispensable to the happiness of the individual States, that there should be lodged somewhere, a Supreme Power to regulate and govern the general concerns of the Confederated Republic, without which the Union cannot be of long duration. That there must be a faithfull and pointed compliance on the part of every State, with the late proposals and demands of Congress, or the most fatal consequences will ensue, That whatever measures have a tendency to dissolve the Union, or contribute to violate or lessen the Sovereign Authority, ought to be considered as hostile to the Liberty and Independency of America, and the Authors of them treated accordingly, and lastly, that unless we can be enabled by the concurrence of the States, to participate of the fruits of the Revolution, and enjoy the essential benefits of Civil Society, under a form of Government so free and uncorrupted, so happily guarded against the danger of oppression, as has been devised and adopted by the Articles of Confederation, it will be a subject of regret, that so much blood and treasure have been lavished for no purpose, that so many sufferings have been encountered without a compensation, and that so many sacrifices have been made in vain. Many other considerations might here be adduced to prove, that without an entire conformity to the Spirit of the Union, we cannot exist as an Independent Power; it will be sufficient for my purpose to mention but one or two which seem to me of the greatest importance. It is only in our united Character as an Empire, that our Independence is acknowledged, that our power can be regarded, or our Credit

supported among Foreign Nations. The Treaties of the European Powers with the United States of America, will have no validity on a dissolution of the Union. We shall be left nearly in a state of Nature, or we may find by our own unhappy experience, that there is a natural and necessary progression, from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of Tyranny; and that arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of Liberty abused to licentiousness.

As to the second Article, which respects the performance of Public Justice, Congress have, in their late Address to the United States, almost exhausted the subject, they have explained their Ideas so fully, and have enforced the obligations the States are under, to render compleat justice to all the Public Creditors, with so much dignity and energy, that in my opinion, no real friend to the honor and Independency of America, can hesitate a single moment respecting the propriety of complying with the just and honorable measures proposed; if their Arguments do not produce conviction, I know of nothing that will have greater influence; especially when we recollect that the System referred to, being the result of the collected Wisdom of the Continent, must be esteemed, if not perfect, certainly the least objectionable of any that could be devised; and that if it shall not be carried into immediate execution, a National Bankruptcy, with all its deplorable consequences will take place, before any different Plan can possibly be proposed and adopted; So pressing are the present circumstances! and such is the alternative now offered to the States!

The ability of the Country to discharge the debts which have been incurred in its defence, is not to be doubted, an inclination, I flatter myself, will not be wanting, the path of our duty is plain before us, honesty will be found on every experiment, to be the best and only true policy, let us then as a Nation be

just, let us fulfil the public Contracts, which Congress had undoubtedly a right to make for the purpose of carrying on the War, with the same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements; in the mean time, let an attention to the chearfull performance of their proper business, as Individuals, and as members of Society, be earnestly inculcated on the Citizens of America, that will they strengthen the hands of Government, and be happy under its protection: every one will reap the fruit of his labours, every one will enjoy his own acquisitions without molestation and without danger.

In this state of absolute freedom and perfect security, who will grudge to yield a very little of his property to support the common interest of Society, and insure the protection of Government? Who does not remember, the frequent declarations, at the commencement of the War, that we should be compleatly satisfied, if at the expence of one half, we could defend the remainder of our possessions? Where is the Man to be found, who wishes to remain indebted, for the defence of his own person and property, to the exertions, the bravery, and the blood of others, without making one generous effort to repay the debt of honor and of gratitude? In what part of the Continent shall we find any Man, or body of Men, who would not blush to stand up and propose measures, purposely calculated to rob the Soldier of his Stipend, and the Public Creditor of his due? and were it possible that such a flagrant instance of Injustice could ever happen, would it not excite the general indignation, and tend to bring down, upon the Authors of such measures, the aggravated vengeance of Heaven? If after all, a spirit of disunion or a temper of obstinacy and perverseness, should manifest itself in any of the States, if such an ungracious disposition should attempt to frustrate all the happy effects that might be expected to flow from the Union, if there should be a refusal to

comply with the requisitions for Funds to discharge the annual interest of the public debts, and if that refusal should revive again all those jealousies and produce all those evils, which are now happily removed, Congress, who have in all their Transaction shewn a great degree of magnanimity and justice, will stand justified in the sight of God and Man, and the State alone which puts itself in opposition to the aggregate Wisdom of the Continent, and follows such mistaken and pernicious Councils, will be responsible for all the consequences.[30]

For my own part, conscious of having acted while a Servant of the Public, in the manner I conceived best suited to promote the real interests of my Country; having in consequence of my fixed belief in some measure pledged myself to the Army, that their Country would finally do them compleat and ample Justice; and not wishing to conceal any instance of my official conduct from the eyes of the World, I have thought proper to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed collection of Papers,[31] relative to the half pay and commutation granted by Congress to the Officers of the Army; From these communications, my decided sentiment will be clearly comprehended, together with the conclusive reasons which induced me, at an early period, to

[30] Edmund Randolph, writing from Virginia, June 28, 1783, to James Madison, in Congress, stated: "The arrival of Gen: Washington's circular letter excited this hope [of the passage of the impost law] in the minds of the sanguine: but its effect is momentary, and perhaps it will hereafter be accepted by the assembly with disgust. For the murmur is free and general against what is called the unsolicited obtrusion of his advice." Randolph's letter is in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[31] The "inclosed collection of Papers" is not listed or noted in the *Washington Papers*, nor with any of these circulars which have been seen by the editor. The following note is appended to the circular sent to Connecticut (now in the Connecticut State Library): "The collection of Papers mentioned to be inclosed, not being compleated, cannot be sent by this oppertunity; but will be forwarded in a few days; the present Letter is sent on in this manner, lest your Legislature should be adjourned before its arrival." Before June 15 a pamphlet of 36 pages was printed by Samuel Loudon, Fishkill, N. Y., entitled "A Collection of Papers relative to Half-Pay and Commutation of Half-Pay granted by Congress. . . . Compiled by permission of His Excellency General Washington from the Original Papers in his Possession. Fishkill: Printed by Samuel Loudon M,DCC,LXXXIII." In all probability one of these pamphlets was inclosed in each circular.

recommend the adoption of the measure, in the most earnest and serious manner. As the proceedings of Congress, the Army, and myself are open to all, and contain in my opinion, sufficient information to remove the prejudices and errors which may have been entertained by any; I think it unnecessary to say any thing more, than just to observe, that the Resolutions of Congress, now alluded to, are undoubtedly as absolutely binding upon the United States, as the most solemn Acts of Confederation or Legislation. As to the Idea, which I am informed has in some instances prevailed, that the half pay and commutation are to be regarded merely in the odious light of a Pension, it ought to be exploded forever; that Provision, should be viewed as it really was, a reasonable compensation offered by Congress, at a time when they had nothing else to give, to the Officers of the Army, for services then to be performed. It was the only means to prevent a total dereliction of the Service, It was a part of their hire, I may be allowed to say, it was the price of their blood and of your Independency, it is therefore more than a common debt, it is a debt of honour, it can never be considered as a Pension or gratuity, nor be cancelled until it is fairly discharged.

With regard to a distinction between Officers and Soldiers, it is sufficient that the uniform experience of every Nation of the World, combined with our own, proves the utility and propriety of the discrimination. Rewards in proportion to the aids the public derives from them, are unquestionably due to all its Servants; In some Lines, the Soldiers have perhaps generally had as ample a compensation for their Services, by the large Bounties which have been paid to them, as their Officers will receive in the proposed Commutation, in others, if besides the donation of Lands, the payment of Arrearages of Cloathing and Wages (in which Articles all the component parts of the

Army must be put upon the same footing) we take into the estimate, the Bounties[32] many of the Soldiers have received and the gratuity of one Year's full pay, which is promised to all, possibly their situation (every circumstance being duly considered) will not be deemed less eligible than that of the Officers. Should a farther reward, however, be judged equitable, I will venture to assert, no one will enjoy greater satisfaction than myself, on seeing an exemption from Taxes for a limited time, (which has been petitioned for in some instances) or any other adequate immunity or compensation, granted to the brave defenders of their Country's Cause; but neither the adoption or rejection of this proposition will in any manner affect, much less militate against, the Act of Congress, by which they have offered five years full pay, in lieu of the half pay for life, which had been before promised to the Officers of the Army.

Before I conclude the subject of public justice, I cannot omit to mention the obligations this Country is under, to that meritorious Class of veteran Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, who have been discharged for inability, in consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 23d of April 1782, on an annual pension for life, their peculiar sufferings, their singular merits and claims to that provision need only be known, to interest all the feelings of humanity in their behalf: nothing but a punctual payment of their annual allowance can rescue them from the most complicated misery, and nothing could be a more melancholy and distressing sight, than to behold those who have shed their blood or lost their limbs in the service of their Country, without a shelter, without a friend, and without the means of obtaining any of the necessaries or comforts of Life; compelled to beg their daily bread from door to door!

[32]The word "*Douceurs*" is careted above the word "Bounties," but does not appear in any of the circulars sent which have been seen by the editor.

suffer me to recommend those of this discription, belonging to your State, to the warmest patronage of your Excellency and your Legislature.

It is necessary to say but a few words on the third topic which was proposed, and which regards particularly the defence of the Republic, As there can be little doubt but Congress will recommend a proper Peace Establishment for the United States, in which a due attention will be paid to the importance of placing the Militia of the Union upon a regular and respectable footing; If this should be the case, I would beg leave to urge the great advantage of it in the strongest terms. The Militia of this Country must be considered as the Palladium of our security, and the first effectual resort in case of hostility; It is essential therefore, that the same system should pervade the whole; that the formation and discipline of the Militia of the Continent should be absolutely uniform, and that the same species of Arms, Accoutrements and Military Apparatus, should be introduced in every part of the United States; No one, (who has not learned it from experience, can conceive the difficulty, expence, and confusion which result from a contrary system, or the vague Arrangements which have hitherto prevailed.

If in treating of political points, a greater latitude than usual has been taken in the course of this Address, the importance of the Crisis, and the magnitude of the objects in discussion, must be my apology: It is, however, neither my wish or expectation, that the preceding observations should claim any regard, except so far as they shall appear to be dictated by a good intention, consonant to the immutable rules of Justice; calculated to produce a liberal system of policy, and founded on whatever experience may have been acquired by a long and close attention to public business. Here I might speak with the more confidence from my actual observations, and, if it would not swell this Letter (already too prolix) beyond the bounds I had prescribed

myself: I could demonstrate to every mind open to conviction, that in less time and with much less expence than has been incurred, the War might have been brought to the same happy conclusion, if the resourses of the Continent could have been properly drawn forth, that the distresses and disappointments which have very often occurred, have in too many instances, resulted more from a want of energy, in the Continental Government, than a deficiency of means in the particular States. That the inefficiency of measures, arising from the want of an adequate authority in the Supreme Power, from a partial compliance with the Requisitions of Congress in some of the States, and from a failure of punctuality in others, while it tended to damp the zeal of those which were more willing to exert themselves; served also to accumulate the expences of the War, and to frustrate the best concerted Plans, and that the discouragement occasioned by the complicated difficulties and embarrassments, in which our affairs were, by this means involved, would have long ago produced the dissolution of any Army, less patient, less virtuous and less persevering, than that which I have had the honor to command. But while I mention these things, which are notorious facts, as the defects of our Federal Constitution, particularly in the prosecution of a War, I beg it may be understood, that as I have ever taken a pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the assistance and support I have derived from every Class of Citizens, so shall I always be happy to do justice to the unparalleled exertion of the individual States, on many interesting occasions.

I have thus freely disclosed what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my Public trust to those who committed it to me, the task is now accomplished, I now bid adieu to your Excellency as the Chief Magistrate of your State, at the same time I bid a last farewell to the cares of Office, and all the imployments of public life.

It remains then to be my final and only request, that your Excellency will communicate these sentiments to your Legislature at their next meeting, and that they may be considered as the Legacy of One, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his Country, and who, even in the shade of Retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it.

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.[33]

To SIMEON DE WITT

Head Quarters, June 8, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of your Letter to me of the 4th instant, I have mentioned to the Comr in Chief your purpose to obtain permission for publishing a Map of the State of War in America. His Excellency directs me to inform you, that the Measure is perfectly agreable to him, and the proposition meets his full Approbation; it being his Wish to see it accomplished in an accurate Manner, and at as early a period as the nature of the Work will admit. I am etc.[34]

[33] The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

[34] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by Jonathan Trum-

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 9, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency the Comr in Chief directs me to inform you, that since Writing to you this Morng. he finds that Colo. Stewart, at your Application, is going to Pompton, for the purpose of mustering your Regiment.

This Opportunity formg a good Conveyance, and as it Will at the same Time save Delay, His Excy has directed a Number of Discharges to be sent by Colo Stewart, which are to be used for such Men of the Regiment as are inclined to take Benefit from them. The General expects that Colo Stewart will take from you a Return of such Men as do not choose to receive their Discharges. I am &c.[35]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, June 9, 1783.

Sir: Your Regiment of Light Dragoons, being to be dissolved, in Consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 26th. day of May, grantg furloughs to the Men for the War; and my particular furlough given to those for three Years.[36]

You will suffer the Men for the War, who will have their Discharges, to take with them their Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition, agreeable to General Orders. The Arms, Ammunition and Accoutrements in the Hands of the Three Years

[35] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J[onathan] Tr[umbu]ll."

[36] The following draft of the form of a furlough, dated June, and in the writing of David Humphreys, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of June 9, 1783: "Permission is hereby granted to in the 2nd Regt. of Light Dragoons, to be absent on furlough until the first of August next, at which time, he is to return to the Army, and report himself to the Commanding Officer at West Point, unless he shall be sooner discharged, or this leave of absence farther extended by Proclamation. Registered in the Books of the Regt."

Men, together with the Public Property of every kind now in the Regt. you will deliver over to the Qr.MGenl, or such Person as he shall appoint, takg. Receipts that they may be conveyed to Camp, for the Benefit of the United States.[37]

GENERAL ORDERS

Monday, June 9, 1783.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Essex, Fishkill.

For the day tomorrow { Major Genl. Heath. / B. Qr. Mr. 2d. Massa. Brigade.

The Hampshire Troops will give the Guards tomorrow.

In consequence of the orders of yesterday, the board whereof B. General Greaton is president will assemble at the Newbuilding tomorrow at 10 o'clock, to decide on the claims of the Candidates for the badge of merit.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 9, 1783.

Sir: I have received yours of the 7th. instant, accompanied with a Letter from the officers of your Regiment.

The Return you mention, was omitted to be inclosed. I have to request that you will immediately forward me a Return, of all the Men who incline to Benefit of the furlough offered them by the Resolution of Congress of 26th May. Transmit this Return by a trusty Hand; and the Discharges shall be sent to you by him. The Remainder of the Regiment you will please to Order to be marched to this Cantonment, near N Windsor, with all the Dispatch possible; where, on their Arrival, they will receive my further Orders.

[37] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Major Ried,[38] in Consequence of the Resolution of Congress of 26th of May, has obtained my Permission to return to his Home. I shall Take time to Consider the Request of the Officers for any further procedure with him. I am etc.[39]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 10, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 8th inclosing the Instructions of the Secry at War on the subject of erecting an Arsenal and Magazine at West Point; the Plan I conceive is a very eligible one. As soon as we shall have passed through the present business of furloughing the Men engaged for the War, it is probable that the whole or at least a part of the Troops in this Cantonment will be removed to West Point: where such number as shall be judged expedient may be employed on that service. I am &c.[40] [MS.H.S.]

To EGBERT BENSON, LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH, AND DANIEL PARKER

Head Quarters, June 10, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have been favored with your Letter of the 30th of May, containing several Queries respectg the Extent of your Commission.

That you would find Embarrassments in the Execution of your Instructions is no more than I expected; but to remove, is not so easy as to foresee them.

It is exceedingly difficult for me, not being a Witness to the particular Cases, or acquainted with the Circumstances which

[38] Maj. James Randolph Reid.
[39] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.
[40] In the writing of David Humphreys.

must fall under your View, in Course of the Evacuation, to give you a precise Definition or Character of the Acts which you are to represent as Infractions of the Treaty; nor can I undertake to give an official Construction of any particular Expression or Term of the Treaty; which must, in Cases of Ambiguity, or different Interpretations, be explained by the Sovereigns of the two Nations, or their Commissioners, appointed for that purpose.

As your Instructions from me, are given in consequence of the Directions of Congress, and are grounded entirely on their Resolutions, which have been passed, in Compliance with Sir Guy Carletons own application; and for directg measures to be taken to obtain the *Delivery* of Property in possession or Controul of the British Troops; which latter Case, is not provided for by the Articles of the Treaty; I must be silent on the Subject; leaving it to your own good Judgment and Discretion to execute your Commission in the best Manner you can, from a critical Attention to the particular Circumstances and Acts which will fall under your View, compared with the Terms of the Treaty, and the Expressions of your Instructions.

It however appears to me, that your reply to Mr Elliot,[41] was very pertinent and proper; for as the *power* is not in our Hands, it matters very little for us to devise Modes, which we are not able to Controul; but which may be evaded by those who are the Executors, leaving to us, the part only of remonstrating, without the Means of prevention. Indeed this Observation may be said to apply to every Act to which your Instructions will extend; so that in fact, I see little more that you will be able to do, than to be *Witnesses* to the Various Acts which will probably pass under your Cognizance, in Course of the Evacuation, whether they are the public Acts of the Comr in Chief, or those

[41] Andrew Elliot. He was royal Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of New York.

of Individuals; and which, if you judge them to be Infractions of either the Letter or Spirit of the Treaty, you are to represent to and remonstrate against to Sir Guy Carleton; leaving it with him, to give the Redress, or involve such Consequences as may Result from the Omission. I am &c.[42]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, June 10, 1783.

Parole Boston. Countersigns Philada., Charlestown.

The 1st. Massachusetts regt. will give the Guards tomorw.

Tomorrow morning a Vessell will be ready at Newburgh to take on board the Baggage of the officers of the Massachusetts Line, eastward of the County of Worcester. They are desired to send returns of their names, ranks and quantities of baggage to the Quarter Master General by six o'clock this evening.

AFTER ORDERS

The strength of the Army in this Cantonment being considerably diminished by the number of men lately furloughed, the order of the 16th. of April directing a General, Field officers, and Quarter Master to be of the day; and also a regiment to parade every day for duty, is dispenced with. For the present there will be one field officer and an Adjutant of the day, and the guards only, will form on the Grand parade at 9 o'clock in the morning.

[42] The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

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